

# Disability Now

## SPEED WELL WITH SUPAKART

The Mobile Aid with Children in Mind  
★ Suitable for ages 6 - Adult  
★ A Battery Operated Vehicle



BERKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
(Speedwell Enterprises)  
FREEPOST, Slough SL1 3BR  
Telephone: 0753 72249

Business  
is  
blooming  
13

Advocacy

Speaking  
up for  
yourself  
7

THE  
BODY  
SHOP  
Make-up  
tape

"Giz a job!"

New series: Careers



Contact a Family's new telephone link-up service, will bring help, support and information to families who have a disabled child. Contact Line (01-222 2211) aims to put families in touch with one another or with a local self-help group. TV's Nerys Hughes (above) and Carlof, whose brother is disabled, were at the launch in London's Battersea Park in May.

## NHS fails brain-damaged people, says doctors

A group of leading doctors and psychologists concerned with disability has called on the chief medical officer of the DHSS, NHS district managers and hospital doctors to rethink the treatment of people with brain injury and give them the same chances of rehabilitation as people with spinal injury.

"At present no NHS rehabilitation units are specifically designated as brain injury units despite the fact that brain injury occurs 40 times more commonly than spinal injury," says the new report.

About 85 people survive with severe head injuries every week, mainly those aged 18-24 who have been in road accidents.

There are around 70,000 people in Britain who live with severe head injury, some in surgical wards because there is nowhere else to go, but most often at home with their families, where there is no coherent plan of treatment or support offered by the NHS or the social services.

A working party of the Medical Disability Society, chaired by Lindsay McLellan, professor of rehabilitation at Southampton Hospital, criticises the NHS for the "very serious shortage of fully-trained staff" - doctors, nurses trained in rehabilitation and clinical psychologists.

The "serious lack of information about the numbers and causes of brain injury and the identity of disabled survivors adds to the difficulty of planning

a rational district service," say the doctors.

They want the NHS to set up experimental brain injury units in some large cities, with appropriate clinical and academic back-up, to study existing treatment and establish staff training programmes. Close working links with community services are "essential".

Among other recommendations are:

- Each health district should maintain a register of brain injury and have a policy for treatment, overseen by a clinical consultant.

- Nurses' training should include the effects of brain injury and the skills for dealing with it.

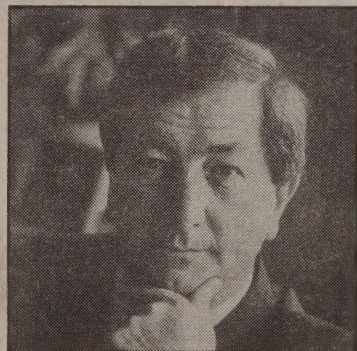
- Patients who do not need surgery should not be in a surgical ward.

- Recovering patients should be followed up in a brain injury clinic staffed by a consultant, a clinical psychologist and a social

*continued on page 4*

## New director

Leon Morris



Kenneth Young, 46, is to be the new director of The Spastics Society.

From July, he will head one of the largest voluntary organisations in the country, with a projected income of £50m this year and 3,700 staff.

For the past 7 years Ken Young has been director of social services for East Sussex County Council where he has done pioneering work in breaking down barriers between professionals and consumers, making services more responsive to needs and putting community care into practice. He has worked closely with other care agencies, built a successful management team and developed new training techniques.

"Mr Young has a tremendous record of achievement," says Douglas Shapland, chairman of The Spastics Society. "The executive council is excited at the prospect of his bringing to the organisation qualities of leadership which will be so vital in moving the Society forward into the next century."

*Interview, page 7*

## Benefit ruling halts community care

Disabled adults living with families may be forced back into residential care because of a change in benefit rulings.

New Income Support Regulations, introduced in April, state that homes with one to three residents which voluntarily register with local authorities will no longer be treated as residential care homes.

This means that local authority schemes which place mentally disabled adults with caring families will not qualify for the higher benefit rate of £160, unless they have at least two carers looking after the disabled person on a full-time basis.

Many adult placements are with families where there is one carer and one wage earner. They will now only receive board and lodgings allowance of £55-£72 a week for each disabled person, even though that person may need a lot of care.

Local authorities face axing future placements or finding large sums of money to meet the shortfall.

Current placements have "transitional protection": the

level of payments received now will not be cut, but will gradually be eroded by inflation.

Brian Jones, assistant social services under-secretary at the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said the AMA had received a letter from the DHSS explaining that the tougher regulations were introduced to ensure that people in placements do not receive a poorer quality of care than those in residential homes.

The Government's concern about the quality of care appears to be contradicted by a report by the Office of Population, Censuses & Surveys, commissioned by the DHSS, completed in February, but not yet published.

*The Provision of Care in Supported Lodging and Unregistered Homes*, suggests that placement schemes are not only cost-effective, but also offer as high a standard of care as residential homes. "The level of commitment shown by carers was more than one could reasonably expect a landlord or landlady in a commercial situation to provide," it says.

Attempts to introduce com-

*continued on page 4*

## Patient Lifting Aids

Assistance for the operator to lift patients from the bed, chair, bath, toilet and floor by using one of our range of mobile lifters or overhead hoists.



## City Rollator

A new addition to the extensive range of walking aids, the unique City Rollator gives you the mobility to help you shop around. The detachable shopping bag is reinforced to help carry those heavy loads.

I would like further information/free no obligation demonstration (delete where applicable)

Powered Wheelchairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Manual Wheelchairs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Patient Lifting Aids	<input type="checkbox"/>	Walking Aids	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commodore & Toilet Aids	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bathroom Aids	<input type="checkbox"/>
Complete set of Leaflets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patient Care & Physiotherapy Aids	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please tick appropriate box for the literature/demonstration you require and post the coupon to:

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
Post Code: .....

DN7/88

**CARTERS**  
An INVACARE Company

Carters (J & A) Limited, FREEPOST  
Alfred Street, Westbury, Wiltshire BA13 3YB

## INSIDE

Letters to the Editor .....	2
Month in Parliament .....	6
Ken Young interview .....	7
Speak up for yourself .....	9
Careers (1) .....	10-11
Gardening: flower shows .....	13
Outlook .....	14-15
Share your problems .....	16
Make-up for blind women .....	17
Z88 can change your life .....	17
People .....	18
Classifieds .....	18-19



# Letters to the Editor

Disability Now 12 Park Crescent London W1N 4EQ

## Custom-built kitchens

I was rather perturbed to read the story of Lin Berwick (DN May).

We are a company of specialist joinery manufacturers and I personally have been involved with disabled people for over forty years. So when two friends of mine both in wheelchairs had a problem with their kitchen I was happy to design and build a kitchen for them.

When it was completed Mrs Valerie Williamson was "over the moon". At last she could reach everything and do everything in her kitchen.

She was adamant that we take it further because so many disabled people require the type of service that we can give, and despite being a small local firm we have built and installed our kitchens all over the country.

We have exhibited at Naidex, but we can't do it every year. Many local authorities and organisations have our leaflets.

I am sure there is no need for Lin Berwick to look abroad. I'm sure that any of our customers will tell her where the best is. We make all our units in our work-shop. Obviously we use standard sizes where we can, but we can literally make to any size or type that is required for any particular disabled person.

**Len Softley & Co**  
Baring Road  
St James

Northampton NN5 7BA

## BR's excellent service...

I refer to *Disability Now*, May, where Lord Snowdon attacks British Rail for their treatment of disabled people.

I have twice taken a group of elderly, visually-handicapped people on holiday to Folkestone via British Rail and found on both occasions that treatment

was excellent.

We arranged that we would be met at Stafford station and our luggage taken from us and put in the guard's van. Station staff were on hand to assist us boarding the train.

The first time, on reaching Folkestone, we were escorted off the train and taken to our coach, while British Rail staff attended to the unloading of luggage which, unfortunately had to be unloaded separately, by hand. This caused them no anxiety as far as we were concerned.

On our return journey from Folkestone the same treatment was available. Finding there was no buffet car for hot drinks between Folkestone and Stafford, a word with the guard produced a phone call to the Travellers' Fare at Coventry where, on our arrival, 2 members of the staff came down the platform bearing trays containing our requirements.

In 1988 the same disaster befell us - lack of hot drinks - but this time we were warned early and got off the train at Tonbridge and organised our own requirements from the Travellers' Fare while the train waited for us.

On both occasions I wrote to Mr Sheridan Hughes, the Project Manager for the Disabled at Euston station, thanking him for the kindness of the BR staff at all stations, which seems to have been appreciated.

**Nancy N Leslie**  
County Secretary  
Staffordshire Assoc for the Blind

## ...including the guard's van

During the past 6 weeks I've made 10 rail journeys - in different designs of "Sprinter" trains, in a 1st class carriage and in the official wheelchair space in one of the few trains which has them. (This last was very unsatisfactory. The space was occupied by passengers' luggage, which had to be cleared out first; the table had been removed, although I'd

asked for it to be left in place; there was no seat or table adjacent; and no room for my belongings.)

My most satisfactory journey was - in the guard's van. There was plenty of space; there was privacy; there was an upturned trunk which served admirably as a table (I realise there may not always be such a trunk!) and I was not locked in. There was an accessible toilet in view through the grid and the guard was frequently passing through the area. Best of all, I was able to use the mesh of the grid for fixing slings (made from expanding straps) to support one of my arms. I have never been so comfortable on a journey.

Yes, it was dirty. And no, there was no seat for an escort. However we all know that there are no escort seats and it is not difficult for an escort to take a folding seat along.

Somewhat to my dismay I saw only one other disabled person travelling during the course of these journeys. Unless we all get about on trains much more we shall continue to be viewed as an extremely small minority, and very few station staff and train staff will have seen what our problems are, how we cope, and what we need.

**Ann Gabell**  
Worcester

## Support for disabled parents

Would any readers of *Disability Now*, individuals or organisations, be interested in setting up a support network for disabled parents with older children?

The Contact Register co-ordinated by the National Childbirth Trust provides mutual help and support to pregnant disabled women and to parents of babies and small children. But many of the parents who contact us have older children and once they reach school age or enter their teenage years, the support needed by these parents changes.

Parents have expressed to us the need to make contact with other parents experiencing the same situations and coping with the same age group.

The NCT is geared to pregnancy, birth and early parenthood and therefore we feel we are not the appropriate people to meet this need. But we would be very happy to work closely with anyone else who feels they could co-ordinate such a network.

**Jo O'Farrell**  
Parents with Disabilities Group  
The National Childbirth Trust  
6 Forest Road  
Crowthorne  
Berks RG11 7EH

## Cinema advert is "out of order"

Having seen the cinema advert for The Spastics Society I felt it was vital to write and object to the images and message it was putting over.

Over the last few years the Society has developed quite a few thought provoking posters which challenged the ways in which able-bodied society views people with disabilities. I would not knock the majority of them.

However, the cinema advert called "Adam" is way out of order because it gives off messages which undermine people with cerebral palsy, "He's got cerebral palsy, do you still want to meet him?"

Not only does this encourage guilt amongst able-bodied people, but it also makes people with cerebral palsy into people we are not. We are neither token

"abs" or "freaks" to be shunned. The whole message misses the point that it is society as a whole which discriminates against us and makes sections of society fearful of us.

The company that made the advert had no awareness of disability as could be seen from the fact their PR woman spoke about "the disabled" and the voice over was your typical "male" as heard on all traditional adverts. Adam sat passive and silent in a chair while able-bodied people talked about him.

Perhaps this is how the Society sees people with cerebral palsy within its own ranks, but the time has come for change. We are capable of speaking for ourselves and control must be in our hands.

The Society should reconsider using this advert and recognise that an error has been made. It should also add weight to the pressure building up to have more people with cerebral palsy in positions of power inside the Society.

**Bob Findlay**  
Birmingham

## Leg fitting service - "super"

Regarding the letter "Never comfortable with any leg", (DN, June), I would like to say that as a one-legged person since 1961 I have had absolutely super service from the staff at Selly Oak (Hangers), also BTR at Roehampton.

Their patience with grumbling fault-finding patients is unbelievable.

I think we should see the fitters'/doctors' point of view. Many are overworked and underpaid for the skills they possess. Time can be a problem, but it is under-funding that is often the problem.

**Barbara Morris**  
Coventry

## Stunned!

I was rather stunned by the thinking, or rather, lack of thinking, which produced the letter, "Where is love?" (DN, June).

The "love" that Catherine Arnold longs for (of years past) in The Spastics Society and in all other areas of disability has, surely, changed to "action". The old "love" has been transmuted, through despair, into anger against the neglect of disabled people. The old, the infirm, the chair-borne, all join in marches or write letters appealing to their MPs for greater recognition of their needs, as human beings. This is a higher form of love.

*Disability Now* readers are not being used as pawns in a political game. We are eager to talk about our former bleak lives. The future is brighter because of the political pressure now being exerted in newspapers, TV, local meetings and Parliament.

Any further wellbeing of humanity generally can only come from visionary good politics. What did "love" do for the six million Jews of Europe who perished in Hitler's gas camps, with hardly any positive protest being made? (The first people who died in that holocaust were the hopelessly sick and the mentally retarded.)

Speaking as a humanist, I think the greatest moment in the life of Jesus was when he got angry and acted against the commercialisation of the Temple of Jerusalem.

Being a very recent reader of *Disability Now*, I find that the paper sizzles - with hope for all disabled people.

**Mrs Katherine Spark**  
Southport, Merseyside

(sic)

DN's diary column  
by Julian Marshall

## No compensation

Sick and tired of the old chestnut about disabled people having saintly characters to "make up for" being physically disabled? It seems even nice personalities count for little these days, when weighed against an inability to walk. The *Newmarket Journal* says 4-year-old cerebral palsy "victim" Nicole Kirchhoff has "an enormous sense of fun, a mischievous grin and a tremendous verve for life." But "this cannot compensate for her having no sense of balance and being unable to stand or walk." Local villagers are trying to raise money to send her to the Peto Institute in Hungary - "Mission of love to Iron Curtain," as the *Journal* quaintly puts it.

## Handy Dexter

One for the *Whatever Next?* department. Mechanical engineering students from Stanford University, California, have developed a pneumatically controlled, computer programmed "talking" hand that can fingerspell. By attaching Dexter, as it is called, to a telephone, people who are deaf and blind will be able to do without a third person communicator to use it. The tireless gismo can also be programmed to be a one-handed fingerspelling tutor. How long can it be until *Disability Now* is sent out in hand form?

## Taxi trouble

Was DN being a little hasty in encouraging a trip to the "donkeys and ice creams" of Blackpool last month? The *Stanton says...* column in Preston's disability magazine, *New View*, has a word of caution for disabled motorists: be careful where you park. If you find trouble parking near the town's main attractions, don't take advantage of the numerous and often empty taxi bays on the Promenade. Stanton tried this, displaying his Orange Badge, but still had his tyres let down by irate taxi-drivers.

## Creative confusion

I hope Wessex Rehabilitation Association's conference *Rehabilitation through Restoration* was less confused than the press release suggested. The conference's laudable theme was that much of the repair work needed by our historic buildings could be done by disabled people. "Creative skills are not usually associated with disabled people, but there is no statistical evidence to support this widespread attitude," says the release. "Obviously creative work will NOT BE SUITABLE FOR MOST DISABLED PEOPLE (their capitals), but it is not known how many of them could have undetected skills in" (long list of crafts follows). Well, what's it to be, Wessex? Can they or can't they? The ambiguous tone is maintained by the quotation used on the front cover: "Full many a flower is born to blush unseen / And waste its sweetness on the desert air".

Contributions, please to DN

## UPWARDLY MOBILE



### THE ASGO-GLIDE

— STAIRWAY LIFT —

### EASY-LIFT

POWER CUSHION LIFTING CHAIR



Quiet, gentle controlled lifting action — ASGO's promise. The ASGO-GLIDE ends the frustration of being unable to walk easily up and down stairs. Side riding and forward riding models available. The EASY-LIFT range of attractive power-lifting chairs makes sitting and standing also much simpler.



Yes I would like to know how ASGO can make my life easier. Please send me a colour brochure without obligation

ASGO-GLIDE STAIRWAY LIFT ☐ EASY-LIFT CUSHION LIFTING CHAIR ☐

Name

Telephone

Address

22B Hawthorne Rd, Lottbridge Drive, Eastbourne BN3 6PZ Tel: 0323 38228 Fax: 0323 38241

ASGO LIMITED

DN3



## New bus doors kill and maim elderly people

Two people have died this year in London and an unknown number have suffered injuries and disabilities after being caught in the exit doors of one-person-operated (OPO) buses.

Both the people who died were in their seventies. The latest, Jack Dowling, 73, had his arm trapped by the doors shutting. He was dragged along for several yards and then fell under the bus, breaking his leg. He died 2 weeks later.

The deaths bring to 6 the number who have died since the OPO buses were introduced in 1986.

Mr Dowling's family are taking legal action against London Buses Limited, which has already had to pay out damages to 75-year-old Thomas Pearson, who had his leg amputated after he was dragged under a bus because his hand was trapped in the doors.

LBL says that OPO buses are 4 times safer than the open platform Routemaster buses. Numerically there are more accidents on Routemaster buses but it appears that the high-risk passengers on OPO buses are not young people leaping on and off when the bus is moving, but elderly and disabled people who cannot get off quickly.

An LBL spokesman said the

company had been "trying for many years to find a new door system."

At present most OPO buses have a warning light to show the driver that the doors are open and this also disengages the gears so the bus does not move forward.

But the doors have a 5 inch rubber trimming that allows small trapped objects such as an umbrella to be pulled out without the warning light flashing. If someone gets their hand or arm trapped in the gap, the driver may think the doors are shut and drive away.

Often drivers cannot see the exit doors because their view is blocked by people getting onto the bus and standing on the lower deck.

The independent public transport magazine *Capital* has been waging a campaign for safer doors on OPO buses. It says the technology to make the doors completely safe exists and is already used on lift doors which open if there is anything at all between them. *Capital* claims that LBL has privately admitted it will not install the fail-safe system because of the expense.

LBL denies this. Their spokesman said that when the company finds a 100 per cent reliable system it will be installed.

## Children back from Peto

Ten cp children, aged 3 to 5, returned from Hungary at the beginning of June after completing 5 months training in conductive education at the Peto Institute in Budapest.

They form the first intake of the Birmingham Institute for Conductive Education, where they will continue work under trainee conductors who have also been to Budapest. The trainees are being supervised by two senior conductors seconded from the Institute for 4 years.

★ *Come Wind, Come Weather*, a study of the difficulties faced by

British families taking children to the Peto Institute, by Janet Read, with a section on social security benefits, is available from The Foundation for Conductive Education, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B15 2TT, £6 plus £1 p&p.

### Don't forget!

If you would like *DN* on tape contact Gayle Mooney on 01-636 5020 ext 244. For *DN* on disc (5" BBC "B", Amstrad CPC 6128) contact Steve Barnard on (02407) 4231.



Neil Kinnock meets Mobility Trust fundraiser Tindy Cox.

## Extra burden for charities

Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour party, has warned that the work of charities is being hindered and newly disabled people are worse off since the new social security regulations came into effect in April.

"Now a greater dependence on charities is being advocated, which places an extra burden on them", Mr Kinnock said. He was speaking at the opening of the smart new Mobility Trust offices sponsored by, among others, ICI, Habitat and Marks and Spencer.

He called for greater investment by the Government to implement existing legislation, like the Disabled Persons Act, which

will improve life for people with disabilities. "What we want is a partnership between public provision and charity, with charity acting as a top-up," he said.

Mr Kinnock praised Mobility Trust. "What they say is: there are no barriers, any capacity a person has can be fully exploited." The charity has helped thousands of disabled people by giving telephone advice 7 days a week, sponsoring research and providing vital pieces of equipment. It relies solely on donations.

*Mobility Trust, 4 Hughes Mews, 143a Chatham Road, London SW11 6HJ, tel: 01-924 3597.*

## London ambulances can't cope

Fewer non-emergency patients who want to go to hospitals or clinics in London and cannot manage public transport are being taken by the ambulance service.

A new report sponsored by GLAD and other London charities, reveals the numbers dropped by nearly one third between 1984 and 1987. Faced with increasing demand and a tighter budget, the service has had to interpret "medically unfit" more strictly.

"The responsibility for promoting adequate transport for transport-handicapped people in London is fragmented," says the report, produced by Professor Michael Fogarty of the Policy Studies Institute.

His findings are based on research in 4 representative inner and outer London boroughs: Hackney and Wandsworth, Hillingdon and Bromley.

He recommends that within the NHS and local transport services, agencies be appointed to take an overview of services for transport-handicapped people and promote their development.

District Health Authorities should be responsible for ensuring adequate transport, contracting for ambulance services, and deciding the most appropriate mix of services (eg Dial-a-ride and taxicard) for each area. But individual boroughs should be responsible for ascertaining the need for services, and promotion and finance.

DHA and council budgets should be increased as necessary, he says.

The quality of ambulance and other transport services is not bad, he says, but there are too few of them. He believes there is

considerable scope for expanding services, even within existing resources, by encouraging greater co-operation between them.

How do we get to Hospital, £1 from GLAD, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA.

## Disabled homeless nearly doubled

The Government's housing policy has produced a massive rise in homelessness among disabled people since 1979 and the new Housing Bill's "survival of the fittest" philosophy will ensure there is worse to come, claims a report published last month.

The main problem has been cuts in council house provision, claims the report's author, Dr Jenny Morris, a housing teacher at Tottenham College, who uses a wheelchair herself.

Disabled people rely more on public sector housing than the general population, because local authorities are the main providers of accessible housing, and because of their relative poverty.

But the Government's "right to buy" policy has been destroying local authorities' ability to provide suitable housing, says the report. The houses sold have mainly been those best suited to adaptation. Disabled people are also barred from buying their adapted council homes.

The result is that homelessness among disabled people increased by over 90 per cent between 1980 and 1986.

This figure does not count "hidden homelessness" - people unable to leave an institution or parental home or are imprisoned in an inaccessible one.

Housing associations are not bridging the gap left by bought-up council houses, and in almost a third of local authority areas they have built no adapted housing, claims the report.

Most owner-occupied housing stock is not adapted for someone with a physical disability, even if they could afford it.

"The evidence presented in this report is a shocking indictment of government policies," says Sheila McKechnie, director of Shelter, the housing charity which published the report.

Freedom to Lose: Housing Policy and People with Disability, £1, Shelter, 88 Old St, EC1V 9HU.

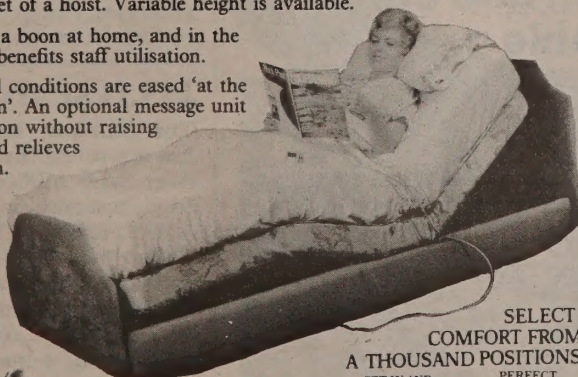
### THERAPOSTURE

## Independence in the home at the touch of a button

There is a TheraPosture specification for many uses in Domestic, Residential/Nursing Homes and for the chronically disabled, under-bed clearance allows for the feet of a hoist. Variable height is available.

Independence is a boon at home, and in the Nursing Home, benefits staff utilisation.

Chest and spinal conditions are eased 'at the touch of a button'. An optional message unit will aid circulation without raising the heartbeat and relieves muscular tension.



CALL FOR A FREE DEMO

AND NOW!

### The TheraLift Seat Lift Chair.

A finger on the button and you are automatically lifted to a standing position.

'SITS YOU DOWN' 'STANDS YOU UP' NICE & GENTLY

An ideal gift from all the family

#### SEND FOR FREE BROCHURE

TheraPosture Ltd., FREEPOST, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 9YT

Please tick: — BED ☐ CHAIR ☐

Name .....

Address .....

Tel: .....

DN7

TheraPosture Ltd.,  
FREEPOST,  
Warminster,  
Wiltshire BA12 9YT.  
Telephone: (0985) 213440  
Telex: 444337 - ACTBUS

Prone & Supine Boards

Freedom Stander

Corner Chairs

Therapy Swings

Potty Chairs

Foam Wedges

Bath Chairs

Tricycles

Side Lying Boards

Adjustable Tables

Rolls, Blocks, etc

**Rifton**

EQUIPMENT FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN & ADULTS  
Fully illustrated CATALOGUE available free  
Robertsbridge, E. Sussex TN32 5DR - phone 0580 880626





**Early learner** Sammy Roberts (6), who has Down's Syndrome, received the keys to his family's new Motability car from the Queen at the charity's 10th birthday celebration at St James's Palace in May. Motability has now supplied 100,000 cars.

### Community care halted

*continued from page 1*

munity care for adults in Coventry have been brought to a standstill because of the new benefits ruling.

"Our community care programme is in crisis," said Anne Da Silva, a family placement worker in Coventry. "This legislation is making a mockery of community care."

All disabled children in Coventry have now been moved into foster homes and social services were starting on the transfer of adults into the community. But placements are becoming very hard to find, says Anne Da Silva. It is not easy to find two people prepared to be fully employed looking after a disabled

person, with all three expected to live on £160 a week, nor to take on a disabled person who needs a lot of care, when they are only receiving board and lodging allowance.

In Bolton, social services planned to move 11 more people into adult placements, but their future is now in question.

If the council cannot find the money to make up the difference between the old and new entitlements, which may be as much as £100 a week per placement, these disabled people will have to remain in long-stay hospitals, explained Marian Calvin, director of social services in Bolton.

"The DHSS's own policies are undermining community care policies," she said.

### Brain injury report

*continued from page 1*

worker, with access to other therapists. They should liaise closely with job centres, employers, GPs and families.

The report offers guidelines on the rehabilitation of patients.

It recommends using drugs "as sparingly as possible."

*The Management of Traumatic Brain Injury, a working party report of the Medical Disability Society, c/o The Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regents Park, London NW1, £2.*

## Orange badge campaigners call for change in parking laws

Disabled drivers fed up with having their parking spaces pinched have launched a campaign to get the law changed to stop it.

As the law stands, police and traffic wardens can only take action against drivers when they use spaces reserved for orange badge holders on public roads or in council car parks.

In private car parks, such as those in supermarkets, disabled drivers are dependent on the consideration of others, and a group in Cheshire don't think this is enough.

Runcorn Road Safety Association are lobbying Parliament to change the law to allow police to arrest and fine offenders and remove or wheelclamp their cars.

Secretary of the RRSA, Helen Ellis-Thomas, already has one car

park victory to her credit. Her campaign earlier this year forced Parcar, owners of the multi-storey car park at Runcorn Shopping City, to increase orange badge spaces from 24 to 39.

But people still ignore the special signs, says Mrs Ellis-Thomas.

She believes a change in the bye-laws would be the cheapest and most effective way of stopping able-bodied people parking in the wrong place, and she has the support of local MPs Christopher Butler (Con) and Gordon Oakes (Lab).

The RRSA have received nationwide support and would like to hear others' opinions. Write to: Helen Ellis-Thomas, 23 Mooring Close, Murdishaw, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 6DA. Tel: (0928) 711619.



**Easy riders** Mark Galer (right) and Max Wiseberg got a hero's welcome after raising £11,000 for the Down's Syndrome Association and Save the Children on a 22 month, round-the-world bike trip.

## On the move in Nottingham

A new organisation to help people with physical disabilities explore the option of living independently has been set up in Nottingham.

Called Your Move Centre for Independent Living, the organisation offers information, advice and advocacy services and wants to hear from anyone in the Nottingham area who is

interested in independent living.

Your Move CIL is concentrating initially on housing and support services for disabled people and is running seminars in July and September on different aspects of living independently.

For seminar subjects and dates contact Jenny Grieve on (0602) 422236.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### TV licence fees in centres rise to £5

Concessionary TV licences for 450,000 pensioners and disabled people living in residential and nursing homes or sheltered accommodation are to be increased from 5p to £5.

The concession is only available on private sets in a resident's room. TV sets in common rooms will be subject to the full £62.50 annual colour fee.

The rise is because the old 5p fee, set in 1969, no longer covers collection costs, said a Home Office spokesman.

### Access to Bernis

Grand Metropolitan, who own the Berni Inn, Barnaby's Carvery and Pastificio chains, now have a policy of installing facilities for disabled people in their new restaurants.

Lovers of Italian food in the St Albans area can already enjoy a meal in the new wheelchair-accessible Pastificio restaurant there, and 6 more are due to open around the country.

New Berni Inns with wheelchair facilities are opening in Nottingham, Swansea and Chelmsford, and the Stratford-upon-Avon branch opened on 27 June. All 231 Bernis have menus in Braille.

### Wimbledon sub-titles

It's "everyone for tennis" this year for the first time after the BBC agreed to subtitle all the main transmissions of Wimbledon fortnight (20 June - 3 July).

The £2,000 cost of the subtitling will be met by the RNID. The only transmissions without subtitling will be those clashing with *Blue Peter* on 20, 23 and 27 June.

### Habinteg in Wales

The first fully-integrated housing estate in Wales welcomed its first disabled residents at the end of May.

The £1 million Thomas Court scheme in Wrexham was built by Habinteg Housing Association with funds from the Housing Corporation.

Ten households with a disabled member now live on the 35-home wheelchair-accessible estate, and there is 24-hour emergency help on hand from a resident community assistant.

### MS research grants

The Multiple Sclerosis Society has approved research grants of over £1.6 million, bringing its total research commitment to £16.5 million.

The largest award of £760,000 went to Professor Ian McDonald at London's Institute of Neurology, to continue his work using a nuclear magnetic scanner to monitor the development and treatment of the disease.

### Nanny agency grows

Demand for an agency which finds specialist nannies and for families with a disabled mother or child has been so great since it opened 2 years ago that it has moved to new London offices.

The Special Care Agency aims to match a family's needs with an appropriately experienced nanny. It will be run by Torna Russell-Hills, advised by its founder Linda Layton, and based at 45 Pembridge Road, London W11, tel: 01-221 5894.

## SQUIRREL MKII

### POWER-CHAIR

Unequalled traction and control - at an affordable price




- Drives, steers and brakes through all four wheels
- Indoor/outdoor performance
- Proportional joystick control
- Adjustable seat and backrest
- Folds for easy transportation

ALL FOR  
**£985.00**  
including batteries and charger

Phone or write for full details

**CHAIRPOWER**

**CHAIRPOWER LIMITED**  
AVONDALE, FRESHFORD,  
BATH BA3 6BX TEL: 022122-3755

Powered By  Pure Air

### AT LAST A MULTI-PURPOSE LIFTER THE NEW MANGAR BOOSTER! PORTABLE



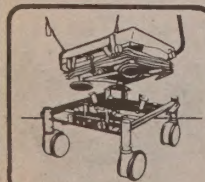
lifts from floor  
to chair or bed



and in  
bathroom



### AND THE MANGAR BOOSTER BUG!



Detachable . . . At Home . . . At Work . . .

I WOULD LIKE A FREE BROCHURE ☐ A FREE DEMONSTRATION ☐

NAME

ADDRESS

DN7/88

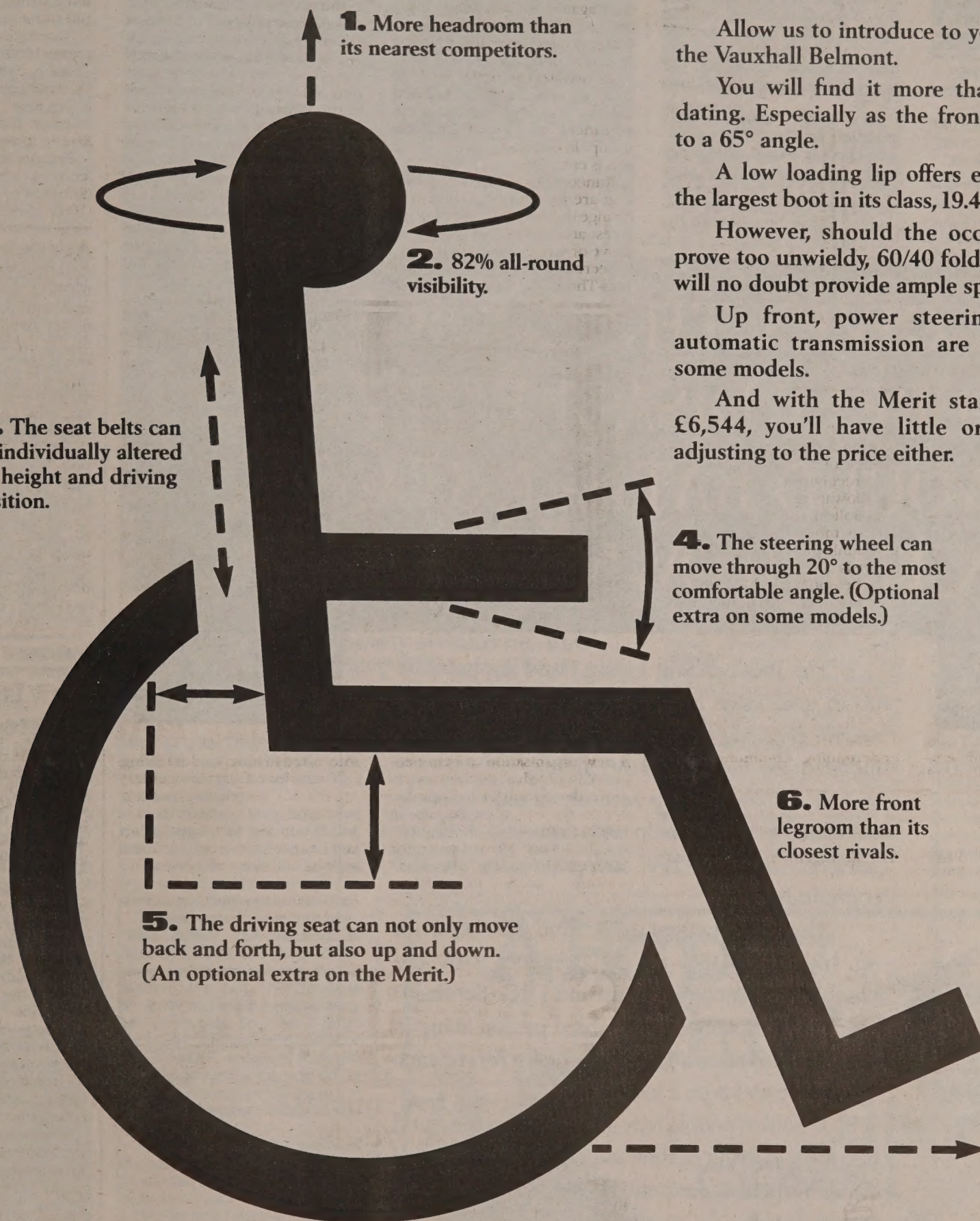
For further details CONTACT: Mangar Aids Ltd.,  
Prestegne Industrial Estate, Prestegne, Powys. LD8 2UF  
Tel: No. 0544 267674 Sales Dept.

Approved by Stoke Mandeville Hospital

A British Product shown in the Design Centre London.



# YOU'LL HAVE LITTLE TROUBLE ADJUSTING TO THE VAUXHALL BELMONT.



Allow us to introduce to you the rest of the Vauxhall Belmont.

You will find it more than accommodating. Especially as the front doors open to a 65° angle.

A low loading lip offers easy access to the largest boot in its class, 19.4 cu. ft. no less.

However, should the occasional load prove too unwieldy, 60/40 folding rear seats will no doubt provide ample space.

Up front, power steering and even automatic transmission are available on some models.

And with the Merit starting at just £6,544, you'll have little or no trouble adjusting to the price either.

Please send me more information about Vauxhall Motability schemes. (Please tick box)

NOVA ☐ ASTRA ☐ BELMONT ☐ CAVALIER ☐

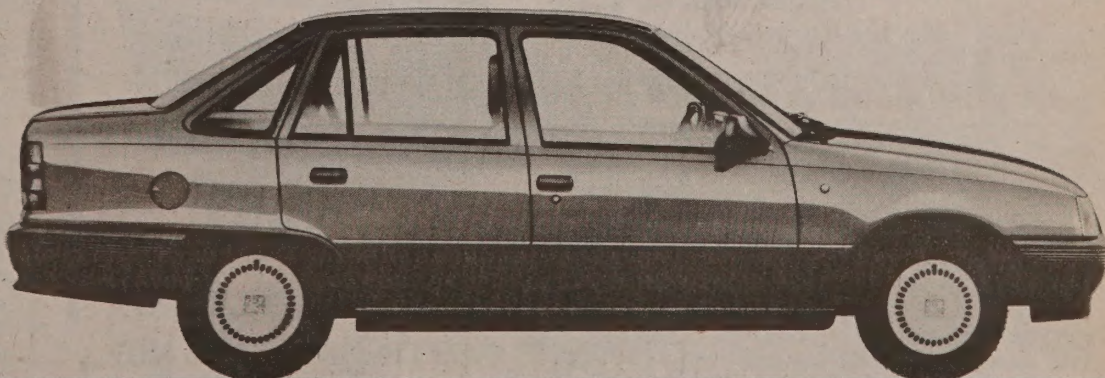
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Vauxhall Motors Limited, Route 6480/S11, PO Box No. 3, Luton, Beds. LU2 0SY.

DN/7/88



## VAUXHALL. ONCE DRIVEN, FOREVER SMITTEN.



## MONTH IN PARLIAMENT



### HOUSE OF LORDS

#### 100% poll tax rebates fail

Lord Allen (Independent) used the committee stage of the Local Government Finance Bill in the Lords on 25 May to air wide-

spread concern about the effects of the poll tax on some disabled people.

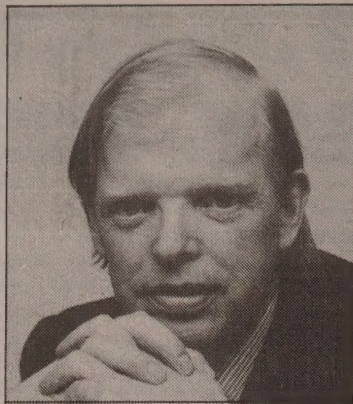
He argued that "the Bill's provisions would in future tend to act as a disincentive for people to live or go back into the community."

His amendment, supported by such organisations as the NCVO, RADAR, MENCAP and The Spastics Society, aimed to counteract this. It would have ensured that disabled people on income support and some other disability benefits would receive 100 per cent rebates of their community charge.

Lord Parry (Labour) drew attention to the problems disabled people would experience under the present rebate plan, where 80 per cent of the rebate would come through new community charge benefit with the

rest being paid through income support.

The Government had said that severely disabled people would



The Earl of Caithness

not be liable to new expense under the community charge system, said Lord Parry, yet the

reality was that many disabled people on low incomes would not receive enough rebates to cover their poll tax liability.

He admitted that some people would actually gain because the compensation paid through income support would be based on an average community charge, but there would be losers too. What was needed was "a system where everyone receives a rebate for the actual obligation rather than a system of winners and losers".

The amendment also sought to replace the existing exemption for severely mentally handicapped people with a more inclusive rebate system based on ability to pay.

Many peers were concerned about the discriminatory effect of the present exemption.

Lord Banks (Labour) said that

all the major disability organisations were opposed to handing out exemptions from the poll tax on the grounds that some categories of disabled people could not fully understand what was going on. In any case, it was difficult to decide who fell into which category. "People should be treated according to their ability to pay and not according to the degree of comprehension which they may be thought to have," he said.

The Earl of Caithness, for the Government, announced a concession. Not only would severely handicapped people with a congenital mental handicap be exempt from poll tax, but so would those who acquire mental handicap from an accident involving criminal injury, medical accident or brain infection.

He undertook to also look at degenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's disease, but he felt that their slow onset and the stigma attached to "mental handicap" would make them more difficult to include and that possible beneficiaries would be less likely to claim.

Lord Caithness did not believe that disabled people on low incomes were not protected by the proposed rebates and he said that disabled people would receive 100 per cent rebates.

In cases where the community charge was more than the average amount rebated in income support, disabled people would have an incentive to concern themselves with council spending, he argued.

The amendment was defeated by 146 to 126.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS

#### New landlord charter questioned

The Government tabled 183 new clauses or amendments at report stage of the Housing Bill on 9 June. Angry opposition MPs claimed that there was not enough time to give detailed consideration to the new measures.

Clive Soley, Labour spokesman on housing, was concerned that under a new social landlord charter, introduced the day before by Housing Minister William Waldegrave, tenants would retain the same services they have now. The charter gives guidance to landlords and rights to tenants of council property being transferred to new ownership. Although the charter was central to the new Bill, opposition members had not yet received copies, he complained.

Alan Roberts (Labour) argued that disabled people transferring from one home to another should have their expenses met in full. If a disabled person has to move out of a council home because possession is being sought by a new owner, the expenses paid should equal the cost of new adaptations, if the grant for the original adaptations had come from public funds.

William Waldegrave, replying for the Government, agreed that modifications made to properties can be crucial to many disabled people, but work in new properties could not be done without the landlord's consent. The amendment could require landlords to meet high bills.

It was far better, he said, "to continue the present position where the disabled tenant is entitled to receive grants for replacement adaptations." If the amendment was accepted, landlords might refuse to do the work at all.

The amendment failed.

Brian Lamb

# GIVEN THE CHOICE SEVERELY DISABLED PEOPLE WOULD RATHER STAND ON THEIR OWN TWO FEET.

The Independent Living Fund has been set up to give more help to very severely disabled people choosing between residential care and an independent life in their own home.

It is there to help severely disabled people who need to pay for help with domestic duties or personal care to live independently in the community.

This independent trust fund has been set up by the DHSS, in co-operation with the Disablement Income Group and DIG (Scotland). The fund is open to any disabled person living in the UK who is receiving or applying for Attendance Allowance and is on a low income.

Disabled people may get help from the Fund to continue living in their own homes or to move out of hospital or residential care.

For example, they may get money to

Pay for someone to look after them

Pay for help with things like housework

Buy something so that they can manage with less help.

For further information write to

THE INDEPENDENT LIVING FUND

PO BOX 183 NOTTINGHAM NG8 3RD

for form ILF 100 in the case of a disabled person aged 16 or over, or form ILF 200 in the case of a disabled child under 16.



Ken Young was on a BBC2 *Brass Tacks* programme recently discussing child abuse. As the count down to the end of the programme began, he interrupted another speaker and had the satisfaction of knowing that his points were the last the viewers would hear and perhaps the ones they would remember best.

Another time, he warned an interviewer before the programme that he would not answer a particular question and if asked he would talk nonsense. Undeterred, the interviewer put that question first. He was rewarded with "rhubarb, rhubarb, rhubarb." "It was their embarrassment, not mine."

The Spastics Society's new director is tough: he knows his onions, sees his opportunities and takes them, and having decided a line, will not be browbeaten.

Now 46, with 7 years behind him as director of social services for East Sussex County Council, he has a national and international reputation for pioneering work on many fronts.

He has broken down the old barriers between customers and professionals and made services more accessible. "I think we achieved a real understanding that if the customer doesn't matter, if the consumer isn't consulted and aware that the organisation is responsive to him or her, we haven't got a future."

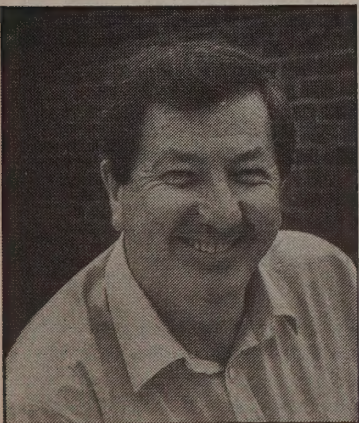
To make services more responsive to changing consumer needs, he pushed management responsibility for decisions and budgeting down to "the front line", which he believes must be a model for the future.

He has also won professional recognition for staff development and training.

Among programmes he is proud of is the removal of more than 150 people from a long-stay hospital in Brighton into the community over 2 years, with all the appropriate financial and staff support. It was used as a model by the Audit Commission.

East Sussex, he says, has reduced the number of children in institutions until 80 per cent are now in foster care, one of the highest rates in the country. The emphasis has been on trying to prevent families breaking up, and providing help for the whole family.

Ken Young has also promoted

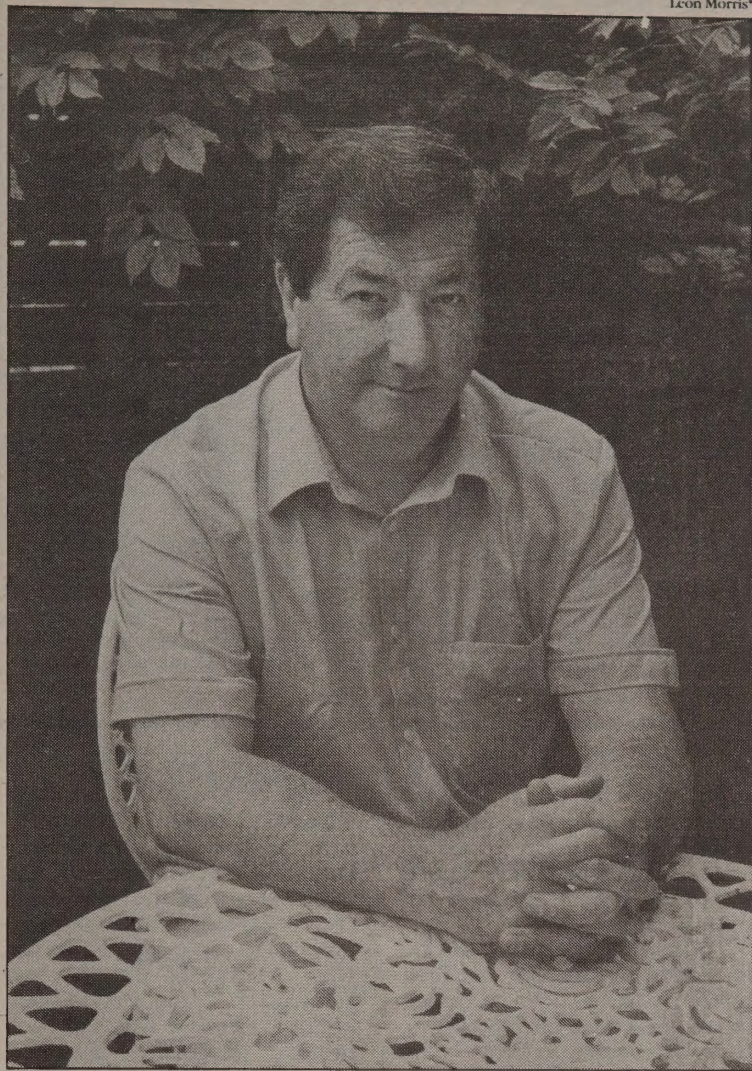


joint planning with other agencies, including the voluntary sector. "A mixed economy of welfare is something I think is inevitable", he says. "That's what the consumer tells me. I should be listening to that."

His successful career has brought him, as he says, "a very comfortable life-style." He lives in a modern house in a village close to the elegant county town of Lewes. He drives a BMW, fast but carefully. With his wife Michele (an ex-assistant director of the British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering, now a freelance trainer and consultant) he has created a conservatory and he has acquired a taste for skiing, jogging and turn-of-the-century

## The new director

Leon Morris



**Ken Young has no fixed idea, yet, of what The Spastics Society should be. But his experience, as Mary Wilkinson finds out, is all about tailoring services to consumer needs**

photographs. They have two inquisitive and affectionate cats. (He has two grown-up sons by a previous marriage.)

It all seems a long way from the Glasgow of his childhood, where as the second son of a textile worker he went to the local high school and became a power station and shipyard electrician.

He does not see it that way. "East Sussex has pockets of poverty I never saw in my childhood and it has poverty that is hidden. It's not just physical poverty, but emotional poverty and loneliness. So I think there are many similarities in terms of the human condition between my background and some of the people suffering and living in not quite as luxurious a world as you might think."

He thinks one of his marks of success may have been the ability to manage change successfully. But he hopes he hasn't lost the values he was raised with. "I was brought up in a family where socialist values and community support and people's rights were high on the agenda. I think that was probably quite a major factor in my personal development and in my attitude to others."

In 1962 he switched careers, becoming a housemaster at a centre for mentally handicapped and severely disturbed children run by Barnardo's in Scotland. Here he had his first contact with disabled people. "I remember being very surprised when real personalities emerged from what appeared, to me in my infancy of knowledge, seemingly grossly handicapped and disabled human beings."

Looking for experience, but with no real plan, he changed

*\*Congratulations Leon Morris, winner of the Kodak UK Young Photographer of the Year award - worth £5000!*

jobs frequently, working with adolescents who had fallen foul of the law and as a community worker on a post-war housing development.

It was while holding a joint appointment in Durham and Darlington, as assistant director

in fieldwork and domiciliary services and assistant director of research and development, that the penny dropped. Looking at the standard of management around him, he thought he didn't measure up too badly.

His next move was, he said, crucial. As area director of social services (West Devon) with a population of 350,000, he had real responsibility, and was accountable to elected representatives. He also had a chief, John Hamson, who won his profound respect, and from whom he learned about leadership and delegation.

In 5 years, he built, from a rather amateur base, a professional, trained team offering some flexible community-based services.

In 1970 he moved to East Sussex as deputy director of social services and 2 years later was appointed director.

The enthusiasm for training and staff development stayed with him. "I had a vision of lots of staff needing support, not just social workers, but people in the front line, people we don't often value, people who wipe bottoms, who do the dirty jobs. I wanted to contact these people, to make them feel part of the organisation."

A great source of pride to him has been building what he thinks is the best management team in the country, producing 6 directors of social services.

"Seeing that talent and being able to use it within your own organisation for the good of the service, and then see that talent go to lead other service developments nationally and internationally is very exciting. And that's part of the fun of being a large organisation. We always knock large organisations as negative things, but they can be very stimulating places."

The size and complexity of The Spastics Society was partly what attracted him to the director's job. "I knew I wanted to move out of the strictly public sector and I had ambitions of perhaps managing a large nation-

al voluntary organisation. The Spastics Society is an exciting place to be and I think it's the future. It's going to be very influential."

He likes the fact it is a consumer-based and parent-based organisation. "It's got a reputation for excellence on the one hand, and it has problems on the other. For a manager who thinks change is positive and inevitable, that kind of organisation has got to be a challenge."

"I don't have any fixed ideas of what The Spastics Society is or should be. I'm not steeped in the voluntary world, so in a sense I'm coming in with a fresh mind. There is no master plan."

He believes the Disabled Per-

**"The Spastics Society has got to put its house in order before telling others what they should be doing"**

sons Act 1986 is a potential catalyst for organisations like the Society to rethink their services and question the quality of life for disabled people. He mentioned advocacy, consumer rights, carers' rights, allocating resources in the wake of the Griffiths, Firth and Wagner reports, a "mixed economy of care", developing a scale of priorities to make the Society "pro-active rather than reactive", developing staff skills, encouraging pioneering work as in the early days, and setting standards.

"The Spastics Society has got to put its house in order before telling others what they should be doing. Unless our own standards are high, we are unlikely to influence other people."

Among the pictures in Ken Young's office, when he starts in July, will be a ferocious Japanese "demon killer", sword in hand. Self-portrait? Perhaps, but not the only one. "What people don't say is that I'm a warm, caring pussycat. Nobody seems to want to know that."

# A Happy Child

## His closest friend

Let Ortho-Kinetics introduce the disabled child to a new friend. The Travel Chair. It will become the ultimate companion, literally supporting them in everything they do, and everywhere they go.

From sitting at the table to riding in the car, manoeuvring through the town to resting in the lounge, the chair will be a constant ally and like a true friend, the Travel Chair will grow along with the child. The Travel Chair has a wide range of supportive and positioning accessories enabling it to be tailored to each child's requirements. The child and the Travel Chair will come together in a unique relationship, allowing more freedom, mobility and participation in family life than previously experienced. A more trustworthy and helpful friend, you will not find!

Send for the new fully illustrated free brochure.

**ORTHO KINETICS (U.K.) Ltd.**  
Care Chair Division  
190 Commercial Road, Totton,  
Southampton, SO4 3ZZ.



## Northern Roadshow is a big success

The very first North of England Roadshow organised by the Disabled Drivers Motor Club and the Kirklees Metropolitan Council Disabled Living Centre, was held at the Huddersfield Sports Centre on 11 and 12 June.

Everyone attending the show agreed that it was a success and although the 2,000 attendance could have been higher, the whole show was sparked with enthusiasm.

The sports centre was filled with more than 30 firms from all parts of the British Isles and a fully comprehensive range of vehicles and adaptations for the disabled driver was on show. Nearby Holset Engineering loaned their car park for vehicle tests.

One or two new items were of particular note. Easydrive proudly presented its new Easyring accelerator, which is installed within the steering wheel and operates with a light, downward pressure. Fitted on an automatic car it costs £367 including components and labour, on a manual car £856 and for an amputee £496.

I was impressed with Everest & Jennings' new petrol driven coupe buggy, the Safari (£2,395), which can be adapted without trouble to do up to 8 miles per hour.

Pioneering Alfred Bekker has done the impossible again with his range of adapted Ford vans and mobile homes. The vehicles can be fitted with everything a disabled driver needs, including one-finger steering, elbow-operated indicators and pads



*Adventurers of all abilities from Hounslow in West London can now play together in Britain's first public playground designed for able-bodied children and their less mobile friends. Kids in wheelchairs, buggies, on bikes or with sticks can enjoy the colourful games, safe nets, slides, sit down games and tunnels at Redlees Park, Isleworth, opened by Labour MP Tom Clarke in May (right). With him are - (back row) helpers Maureen Paul and Eamon Smith, (front row) Darren Hoare, Raje Chatory, Brian Abdulla, and Sanjiv Vadi, Hounslow Council's chair of Equal Opportunities.*

which just need touching to, for example, change gear or operate the windscreen wipers.

Even a quadriplegic person should be able to drive one of these vehicles, unless totally paralysed. They have to be seen to be believed. The range starts with a basic model at £13,950 and goes up to a deluxe version at £30,000.

Anne Garton

*Easydrive, John Player Building, Stirling Enterprise Park, Stirling, tel: (0786) 51077.*

*Everest & Jennings Ltd, Princewood Road, Corby, Northants NN14 2HS, tel: (0536) 67661.*

*Alfred Bekker, The Green, Langtoft, Nr Driffield, North Humberside, tel: (0377) 87276.*

## Disabled people enabled by IT

A major project to show how disabled people can be helped by new technology was launched last month by the British Computer Society.

The two year project will be headed by Geoff Busby, disabled himself, who has been seconded for the task from his employers, GEC Computer Services.

He said they had decided to concentrate on the use of information technology in employment. The main aim will be to increase awareness amongst employers of how new technology can help disabled people at work, and members of the BSC will be visiting employers and

workplaces around the country.

A newsletter, *Technology Support*, first published in June, will be sent to all the representatives of Government, employers, unions and computer companies who attended the project launch, and to the 40,000 readers of *Personnel Today*. It will provide information for employers about disabled people at work.

A series of workshops, starting in the autumn, will focus on the computing and telecommunications tools available.

*The British Computer Society, 13 Mansfield St, London, W1M.*

## Deaf services in Northern Ireland are "20 years behind England"

The first survey of deaf people in Northern Ireland, carried out by deaf researchers, has uncovered a picture of wasted ability, unemployment, disillusionment and social isolation.

The report calls for an urgent increase in services for deaf people, more interpreter and communicator training courses and more trained communicators and deaf liaison officers in job centres.

"It describes conditions of deaf people in England 20 years ago," says Gordon Mitchell, head of employment and education services at the Royal National Institute for the Deaf.

Unemployment is running at 30 per cent and most of those in work have low status, blue collar jobs paying less than £96 per week, the report finds.

Almost one third had never been to a job centre because staff were thought not to be interested in deaf people.

With many teachers unable or forbidden to use sign language in Northern Ireland schools, one third of the sample said they understood their teacher "only sometimes" and only 34 per cent left with qualifications, mostly in non-academic subjects.

An Interim Report on a Pilot Survey of Deaf Adults in Northern Ireland, free from *The Northern Ireland Workshop with the Deaf*, Bryson House, 28 Bedford Street, Belfast.

## CARE GUIDE 88

the new consumers' guide to services for elderly people

### 11 REGIONAL EDITIONS

ISBN	EDITION
1 85440 000 2	LONDON & SOUTHERN HOME COUNTIES London, Berks., E. Sussex, W. Sussex, Hants., Isle of Wight, Kent and Surrey
1 85440 001 0	LONDON & NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES London, Beds., Bucks., Essex, Herts. and Oxfordshire
1 85440 002 9	SOUTH WEST Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset Glos., Wilts and Somerset
1 85440 003 7	EAST ANGLIA Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk
1 85440 004 5	EAST MIDLANDS Derbyshire, Leics., Lincs., Northants. and Notts.
1 85440 005 3	WEST MIDLANDS W. Midlands, Hereford & Worcs., Shropshire, Staffs. and Warwickshire
1 85440 006 1	YORKSHIRE & HUMBERSIDE N. Yorks., S. Yorks., W. Yorks. and Humberside
1 85440 007 X	NORTH WEST Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Cheshire and Lancashire
1 85440 008 8	NORTH Cleveland, Tyne & Wear, Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland
1 85440 009 6	WALES
1 85440 010 X	SCOTLAND

### EDITORIAL

Common to all 11 regional editions, informative articles by expert contributors tackle the key concerns of consumers and their relatives. - what long-term options are available? where can they be found? are they affordable? how can they be judged? Topics include:

- Staying independent at home
- Sheltered housing
- Residential and nursing homes
- Aids to independent living
- Making best use of public services
- Common conditions of old age - Alzheimer's disease
- Personal financial planning
- Social security benefits and other sources of cash

### DIRECTORY

And to assist the consumer in a market where information is presently fragmented and hard to find, each edition will contain region-wide details of sheltered housing for sale, home care services and residential and nursing homes. Nowhere else is this information collated in an immediately accessible form.

Available in bookshops from August 1988, or direct from Laing & Buisson Publications Ltd, 1 Perren Street, London NW5 3ED at £4.95 inc. P.& P. Tel: 01 485 8577  
Please call for information on discounts on quantity.

NEW PUBLICATION  
AUGUST 1988



The last few years has seen a gradual revolution in the way the rights of mentally and physically disabled people are defined. The idea that professionals should "take care of" and make decisions for disabled people is being challenged. In its place, at the heart of this revolution, is advocacy.

Pioneered in Sweden in the 1960s and adopted by America in the 1970s, advocacy is still not widely understood in Britain.

We all use an advocate, when we have insufficient knowledge or skill to perform a task ourselves, like buying a house or making a will. But in its disability rights context, advocacy usually involves people with learning difficulties or communication problems having the chance to speak-up for themselves (self-advocacy) or to choose someone to speak for them (citizen advocacy).

The first legal recognition of advocacy came in the 1986 Disabled Persons Act. Sections 1 and 2 spell out how a disabled person can appoint an "authorised representative", or how a local authority may appoint one, to represent them over the provision of social services and accompany them to meetings or interviews. If they live in residential or hospital accommodation, the representative has a right of access to the disabled person.

Tom Clarke, sponsor of the original Bill, says although much of it was altered or deleted to ensure its acceptance by the Government, the advocacy clauses received full support on both sides of the House.

Under the original timetable, sections 1 and 2 of the Act should have been implemented by now. Yet 2 years on, they haven't been.

"The Social Security Act was passed at the same time, and that



Advocates represent their partners: citizen advocate Kit (left) and Olive discuss affairs over a drink.

## Speak up for yourself

Julian Marshall looks at the advantages and pitfalls of advocacy

advocate, irrespective of their disability.

The Group Homes Project in Greenwich, for example, started last August after a video of a borough-wide conference on self-advocacy generated a lot of interest among disabled people in 3 Greenwich adult training centres.

Members come from all over the borough. They live at home with parents, independently or in staffed accommodation and attend day training centres.

"We talk about our rights: that we can read our personal letters in private, or use the phone,"

expected," says Brenda Luckock.

The main preoccupation at the moment is organising a second disco. Dimitri forgot to book the hall for the first one: it was his freedom to make a mistake and learn by it.

"It's important to guide, not lead, and to beware of manipulating by implanting ideas," says Colin Wisely, the other co-ordinator. "It is up to the members to decide what they want to do. At the beginning, the idea that they could change things was alien, but they are becoming more self-confident and political with a small 'p'."

Schemes may be funded by a local authority, charity or professional organisation, or members may find the resources themselves. In cases like the Group Homes Project, says Colin Wisely, when funding comes from the providers of the very services opened to criticism, the local authority, there may be conflicts before long between the co-ordinators' roles as employees and group facilitators.

Pauline McDonald, one of the group, provided an example of the friction between service providers and advocacy groups that may result from increased confidence: she decided to stay for lunch with the others rather than go back to her day centre as originally planned. She used to be very shy; now she will be one of the group's representatives at the International People First conference on advocacy in September.

Some people with disabilities may not be in a position to represent their own interests immediately. For them, using a citizen advocate may be more appropriate.

Citizen advocates are unpaid volunteers who work with a partner to protect their rights.

But it is volunteering at a high level. Not everyone is suitable, says Carole Auger, deputy co-ordinator of the Camberwell Citizen Advocacy Office, which started over 2 years ago.

"We look for people with common sense who are capable of representing someone else — not everyone can deal with bureaucracy. They must also be people who care and have motivation and who believe that people with severe learning disabilities are valuable members of the community."

Most advocates live locally

and must commit themselves to their partner for at least a year. "Advocates are often the one person in their life who is there for them alone and not getting paid for it, so stability is very important," says Carole Auger.

The crucial point is that advocates represent their partner's view and make their wishes known, and do not take decisions on their behalf.

By helping an individual develop their own skills and confidence, advocates may eventually make themselves redundant. One user at Camberwell has recently decided he no longer needs an advocate.

Gary Bourlet is president and a founder member of People First, whose funding comes from members in nearly 30 affiliated self-advocacy groups.

"Running things ourselves has made a lot of difference, by giving us the chance to make our

own decisions, not having them made for us," he says.

"We are probably closest to the funding ideal," says Andrea Whittaker, adviser to People First. "But there are pros and cons with any system and all staff must make some compromises."

Consistent support from advisers is also important, she thinks, and the advisers themselves need support. "Groups may fold without it, or self-advocacy become just another part of a training centre's day."

Her views are underlined in a report from CMH (campaigning for people with learning difficulties), published in April.

While 60 per cent of adult training and social education centres in England and Wales now have self-advocacy groups, (compared with 22 per cent in 1980), conflict of interest and lack of staff support are the main pitfalls.

Half of the groups which have collapsed did so because of problems with staff. "Self-advocacy groups based in service settings will always have some difficulties in being listened to where professionals run the service," concludes the report. "This is why self-advocacy groups based outside of services, such as People First, are essential. For self-advocacy to work, self-advocates and staff, parents and others have to change."

As one CMH survey respondent put it: "Self-advocacy is nothing new — listening is."

The following organisations can point you to a range of information packs, videos, books and local groups.

People First, 126 Albert Street, London NW1 7NF, tel: 01-267 6111.

CMH (campaigning for people with learning difficulties) 12A Maddox Street, London W1R 9PL tel: 01-491 0727. The report, The Growing Voice costs £3.75. National Self-Help Support Centre, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU, tel: 01-636 4066.

National Citizen Advocacy, 2 St Paul's Road, London N1 2QR, tel: 01-359 8289.



Self advocates on the Greenwich Group Homes Project. From left: Colin Wisely (co-ordinator), Pauline McDonald, Eileen MacRobert, Dimitri Calogeras and Brenda Luckock (co-ordinator).

was fully implemented in April this year, when there was a desperate need for advocates," says Tom Clarke. "It was pointed out in 1986 that there would be resource implications, but the Government is dragging its feet because implementation of the Act will cost money."

Mr Clarke also believes that by hindering advocacy, with its emphasis on individual consumer rights, the Government contradicts its own professed philosophy. "It is a very efficient democratic process," he says. "I think there is a fear in the Government that advocates will start to demand more of the rights contained in the rest of the Act."

Advocacy encompasses a whole range of decision-making, from relatively simple things like deciding when to go to bed or what food you want to eat, to striking for higher wages, so almost anyone can be a self-

says Dimitri Calogeras, who has learning difficulties, "and we talk about marriage and sex."

The first few meetings were about the nuts and bolts of procedure: getting to know each other, making sure everyone gets heard, how to vote, electing a treasurer and secretary. The members take turns chairing the monthly meetings.

"Gradually, the group is learning the art of self-determination, as their confidence and social skills develop," says Brenda Luckock, one of the group co-ordinators. "The quality of discussion and debate has improved greatly. People are listening and thinking about what the other members say much more."

The co-ordinators admit that they get frustrated. "The pace of development was slower and the group has not been as vociferous in its efforts to change the way services are provided as we had

**FOR OVER 20 YEARS  
OUR DOORS HAVE BEEN  
OPEN TO CHAIRBORNE  
PASSENGERS.**

**Chairman**

DN/7/88

Please send full colour brochures of new and used Ford, Austin Rover, Vauxhall, Renault and Nissan

Name .....

Address .....

..... Tel. ....

FREEPOST, Thatcham, Berks. RG13 1BR. Tel: 0635-64464 or dial 100 and ask for "FREEPHONE GOWRINGS"

**Gowings** **Mobility International**  
Disability Now



## "I've always been good with my hands and I very much wanted to be a bricklayer"

Eighteen-year-old Ian MacKenzie has wanted to be a bricklayer since the age of 14, but because he is profoundly deaf and has very little speech, he was told his chances of achieving his ambition were remote.

Ian went to the Somerfield School for the Deaf in Malvern until he was 16 and then went to Hereford College for a "bridging year" where he did a vocational education course. While there, despite the initial discouragement of careers advisers, he insisted that he wanted to learn the bricklaying trade. "I have always been good with my hands and I very much wanted to be a bricklayer. I was determined being deaf would not stop me," he said. "Everybody thought that building was too dangerous for me, but it was all I wanted to do."

Ian's parents gave him every help and support along the way. "We were sure he could do it," said Mrs MacKenzie, "We knew that if he was given the chance he would make a success of it."

To prove he could cope Ian went on a fortnight's work experience with a local builder in Hereford - and came back with a glowing report. He then sat the Construction Industry Training Board's entrance exams, determined to go ahead with his plan. Ian surprised both the CITB and those who had been trying to put him off by doing well enough in the exams to be considered for a craft apprenticeship.

But before he could begin to learn the trade he needed to find a builder to take him on so that he could complete the practical side of his training. On the suggestion of Bill Munn, the CITB's

training adviser, Ian contacted local builders Thomas Broad Ltd.

Broad's financial director, Tim Whittaker, asked Ian for an interview. He went along with his mother, nervous about how he was going to get on, but once there went into the interview alone and found he had no trouble communicating with Mr Whittaker, who agreed to sponsor him on the course.

Last September Ian started the 2 year CITB Youth Training Scheme programme, which combines building theory at Worcester Technical College, and practical on-site work with the sponsoring builder.

### "I was determined being deaf wouldn't stop me"

At this point the Manpower Services Commission came to the rescue, with the offer of a £6,000 a year grant for a "communicator" - someone who could use sign language and be alongside Ian to interpret for him what the lecturers at the college and the site foreman were saying. He admits that without his communicator, Jane Halion, he could not have coped with the classroom work.

This is the first time a communicator has been used in construction industry training.

Ian has just completed his first year exams. He sailed through the practical, at which he excels, with a grade of 72 per cent, and is waiting for the results of his theory paper. Because of his problems with English, a result

of deafness, he does not expect to do so well in these, but hopes that his ability in maths will pull him through. His tutors at Worcester College consider him one of their best students.

At the end of his second year he will sit the final City and Guilds bricklaying exams, and then should join Broads as an apprentice.

Over the summer months the emphasis is on on-site experience. He has recently been working on projects including renovating the inside of a bank and rebuilding a factory.

Ian says he gets on well with the other builders on site. They take the time to see that he understands what they are saying, as well as making the effort to understand him.

As for safety, Ian says: "I don't think it's any more dangerous for me than for anyone else. I've been told about all the safety side of things and it is not a problem."

Broads are delighted with Ian's progress. "If Ian is good enough we will offer him an apprenticeship and he should be as good a worker as anyone else," said Tim Whittaker.

Having a job he enjoys has given Ian more confidence, he says. Although not ready to move away from home yet, he drives his own car and finds little problem mixing and communicating socially. His hopes for the future include becoming a foreman one day. "I would like to be the boss," he said.

To find out about apprenticeship schemes ask at your local careers office (see box).

## Careers

In the first of a new 6-part series, Karen Wingate talks to two young people about the careers they chose.



Ian demonstrates his craftsmanship, with his first communicator, Paul Tim Whittaker of Broads (back left), and Bill Munn, the CITB's training (back right) looking on. "The co-operation of all involved has meant that one who has all the potential of becoming a first-class skilled craftsman has not been lost to the industry," said Mr Munn.

Fasten your seat belts.

You're coming for a drive in a truly amazing little car. It's a 1.1 litre Ford Fiesta with a new kind of automatic gearbox, one that's designed especially for small cars.

In the first place, it feels as nippy as a manual.

In the second place, you'll be amazed by its fuel economy.\*

And, in the third place, it's great fun.

Let's suppose you're just moving off. All the controls will seem quite familiar. The gear lever has five positions: park, reverse, neutral, drive and low. Slot it into drive, squeeze the accelerator, you're away. And here's where you get your first surprise. This little car is quick off the mark.

That's because the gearbox is much simpler than a conventional automatic. So it doesn't use up as much engine power.

In tests, it's done 0-60 mph within a second and a half of the five speed manual, and reached 87 mph.†

But the best is still to come. As you accelerate, you expect to feel it change gear.

But you don't.

You see, the gearbox doesn't have the usual gears. Instead, it continuously adjusts itself so that you're always in the most efficient ratio for the prevailing conditions.

People say it feels like a plane taking off. The car smoothly gathers speed with no hiccups along the way, and hardly any change in engine note.

Once you've reached your desired speed, you ease off on the accelerator and something else quite delightful

happens. The car seems to relax into a lovely quiet cruise.

It's a bit like having a sixth gear, which in effect it has. The engine slows right down but you maintain your speed. Wonderful for motorways.

# FIESTA'S MAGIC BOX



That also explains why this Fiesta is so economical. Since it always chooses the highest possible gear ratio for the

job, it uses a lot less petrol than a conventional automatic. In Government fuel tests it achieved 58.9 mpg at 56 mph.\*

We could go on for ever about this little car; how easy it is to drive in town, what fun it is on winding roads. But, better by far, why not try it for yourself.

The Fiesta Automatic is available in L or Ghia trim.

And most Ford dealers should be able to arrange a demo.

One last word, don't be put off if it feels a little odd at first. It'll only take you a couple of miles to get used to it. Once you have, we bet you'll agree, it's magic.

If you would like full details of the Fiesta CTX, the Ford Motability Scheme and a copy of our brochure "Ford and the

Disabled Motorist" then please fill in the "Freepost" coupon below or contact Ford Personal Import Export Ltd, Motability Department DN, 8 Balderton Street, London W1Y 2BN. Tel: 01-493 4070.



†Ford computed figs. \*Achieved in govt. fuel economy tests - mpg (litres per 100 km), constant 56 mph (90 km/h) 58.9 (4.8), constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 40.9 (6.9). Urban driving 39.2 (7.2).

Freepost Ford, London W1E 8EZ.

Please send me full details of the Fiesta CTX, the Ford Motability Scheme and the Ford Cars brochure.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_



DN/7/88

## THE FIESTA CTX AUTOMATIC



# "No-one believed that I could work with children...but I was determined"

Nineteen-year-old Louise Arnold loves children and she is a big hit with the kids in the creche she runs at the Beach Hotel at Trearddur Bay on the Isle of Anglesey, where she has worked for just over a year.

But 3 years ago when she decided to train as a nursery nurse she was told she would never manage it.

Louise was born with spina bifida. She walks with a limp and cannot move as quickly as she would like.

She went to the Sherbourne Fields Special School in Coventry, and when the time came to decide what she wanted to do with her life, she had already made up her mind.

"I always wanted to work with children, and I had decided to train as a nursery nurse," she said.

But she had little support from anyone. The careers officer and even her parents were against the idea at first. "I think they thought I was a bit crazy, and they weren't too keen on my doing it."

"No-one believed that I could work with children. I think they thought it was going to be too tiring for me being on my feet all day. They all told me I should work in an office, and tried to persuade me to do a secretarial course instead, but I was determined and I knew I would succeed."

She admits that she has an in-built stubborn streak. "When I decided to learn to drive people said I should have an automatic. But no! I learnt on a manual car, passed my test in one and still drive one. I shall never drive an automatic on principle."

The school careers officer,

finally persuaded by Louise's determination, got in touch with the North Warwickshire College, which ran a City and Guilds course in Family and Community Care and Home Economics. She arranged an interview for Louise, which was followed by a trial week at the college to see if she could cope.

At the end of the week she was accepted for a place on the course.



Laundry-time: in staff quarters at the hotel.

"I was the first person with a disability to go on the course," said Louise. "They were a bit worried about how I would cope. I had been at a small special school all my life and there I was, dumped into this huge college with hundreds of students. That was hard."

She found complete acceptance from the staff and students, once they overcame their shyness about asking her about her disability.

Some concessions were made for her - she was given a pass for the lift and allowed to go home early if she wanted - but she refused to accept them. "No-one else used the lift, so I wasn't going to!"

One difficult point was when the students returned from their first work placements, some of

which had been in special schools and residential centres. "Lots of them were scared to talk about their placements with special schools in front of me. They felt embarrassed, but I told them what I tell everyone - treat me just the same as everyone else."

Louise started applying for jobs the Christmas before she graduated. At first she mentioned her disability on the application forms, but quickly decided to keep it quiet when all she got back was rejections - not even first interviews.

She was offered a job as a private nanny for 2 children in Coventry, but turned it down "because I didn't really want to do private nannying, you get too shut off."

In January she saw an ad for the creche job at the Beach Hotel and applied, but she was initially refused. Then in May she had a letter inviting her for interview. She clearly made an impression as she was offered the job.

"We didn't talk about my disability at all until the end of the interview, when I was asked about it and if it would affect my work. I said no and that was that."

Louise loves her work, running the creche single handed. Most of the children belong to staff who work in the large hotel or in the health club attached to it, or to holidaymakers or parents visiting the club.

At busy times she will have 8 or 9 children to look after in a day, but never more than 5 or 6 at once. The youngest she looked after was 5 weeks old and the oldest are about 7.

The parents are happy to leave their children in her care. "I have had a few asking 'Are you sure you can cope?' and some people have asked what's the matter with me. I would rather they asked than just be ignorant about it and ignore me."

For the first few months none of the children seemed to notice she had a disability, said Louise.



Louise is doing what she loves most - working with children.

Then one day a little girl who visits regularly said "You walk funny don't you". Louise explained that she had a "lazy leg" and the child has not mentioned it since.

She has enjoyed watching the children she cares for grow up over the past year. "I look after twin girls who are just over 2 now. They have been growing up with me and I think it is good

recently given the £10 pay rise she asked for.

Although she is very happy with her job, has made lots of friends and has a good social life at the hotel, which has its own night-club, she is also ambitious.

"I don't want to stop here forever", she said. "I would like to move on to bigger nurseries and one day eventually open my own day nursery."

## "They tried to persuade me to do a secretarial course instead"

that they are learning to accept a disabled person as a normal person in everyday life."

She says she has no problem in coping with the job. The only time she finds her disability limits her is when she wants to let the children play outside. "I can't take a lot of them outside at once. Children can shoot in all directions and I just wouldn't be able to catch them." She is hoping to have a fence put around the area outside the creche.

Louise earns £55 a week, with free food and accommodation - she was on £45 a week, but was

## How to become a nanny:

There are 2 courses you can take to become a trained nursery nurse. For more information about the City and Guilds course Louise took, and a list of colleges which offer it, write to the City and Guilds of London Institute, 76 Portland Place, London W1. The National Nursery Examination Board (NNEB) also runs a 2 year course. There are 170 colleges of further education offering NNEB courses. For a list write with a stamped addressed envelope to the NNEB, Argyle House, 29-31 Euston Road, London NW1 2SD. You should then contact the colleges individually for information about facilities for disabled trainees. Some colleges are now offering part-time courses.

## ers information

have to persevere in finding information you need about job opportunities - there are many who can help, but few co-ordinator activities.

place to start is your local centre, where you will find a careers officer and a Disablement Officer who is trained to help disabled people. Other places are the Citizens Advice Bureau careers section of your local

Training Commission (former-Manpower Services Commission) Employment Rehabilitation centres which provide from two weeks' assessment and rehabilitation before beginning or restarting

Commission's Disablement Service can also help with special equipment, or if deaf, a communicator. You can contact your local DAS manager at the Job Centre.

For more general information contact the DAS can offer write to Department of Employment, 100 Victoria Road, Rockingham House, 123 West, Sheffield S1 4ER.

**HANDIDATE**  
Friendship Agency

LET US TRY AND HELP YOU FIND A PARTNER

All enquiries to: HANDIDATE  
The Wellington Centre  
52 Chevallier Street  
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB  
Telephone: (0473) 226950

## Tired of a manual chair?

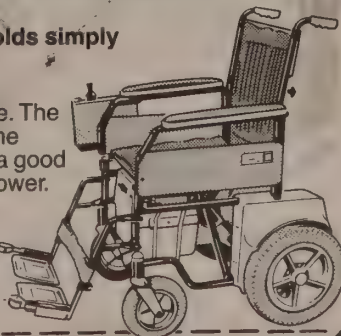


### ...make life easier for yourself

A manual chair is fine when you've lots of energy. But it has its limitations. If only you could have the same portability but with the added independence of power. Now you can. The Home and Away is the answer. Inside or out it's the ideal all-purpose chair. Weigh up the advantages...

- Small but powerful ■ Light and folds simply
- Compact and comfortable
- Maintenance-free batteries

And above all it's very economical to use. The big plus of the Everest & Jennings name means the Home and Away must be a good buy. Now you're ready to move up to power.



THE NEW **HOME AND AWAY**

SEND FOR COLOUR BROCHURE TODAY

To FREEPOST Everest & Jennings  
Princewood Road, Corby  
Northants NN17 2DX

Dial 100 and ask for FREEPHONE 833 0000  
**Everest & Jennings**  
The caring company

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TEL \_\_\_\_\_

DN7

It costs less than you think!

## CUSHIONS! CUSHIONS! CUSHIONS! MATTRESSES!

## STOP PRESS!

In time for Naidex - JONCARE have imported a whole new range of cushions for the Support & Immobilisation of Disabled children, the Invalided & Aged. The range comprises of: Gel-cushions for personalised comfort, and, Depressurizable cushions to full size mattresses that 'Mould-and-Hold' up to 5 days!, for Ergonomic support and the control of Bed-sores.

They are heat insulating, Let X-rays go through and can be washed with soap, alcohol or ether. Write or phone for more details of CALERGO 1-2-3 and IMAGINEM ranges - also for a Free full colour catalogue.

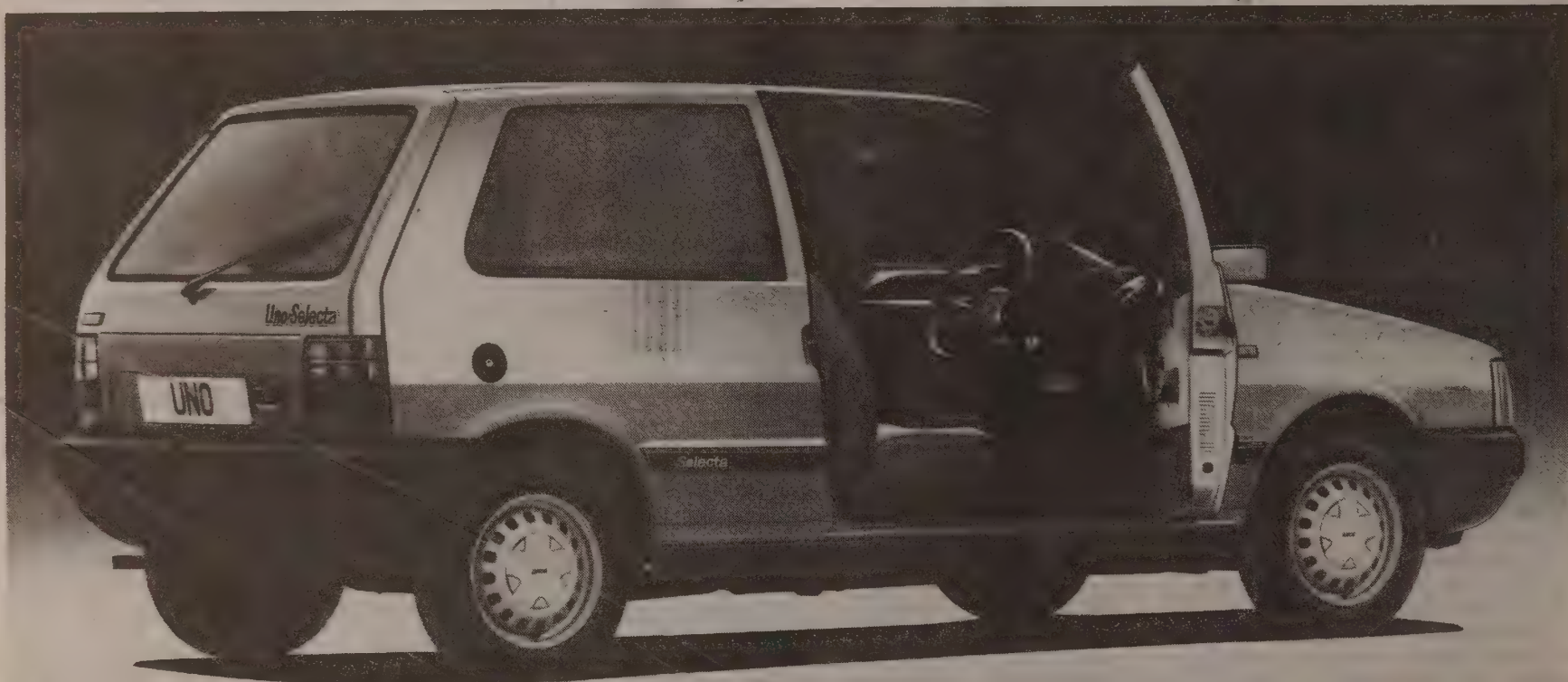


**Joncare**

7 Ashville Trading Estate, Nuffield Way, Oxon OX14 1RL.  
Tel: (0235) 28120/35600. Telex: 837744. Fax: (0235) 33046.



# FIAT GIVES YOU MOBILITY INSIDE AS WELL AS OUT.



It is true that most small cars are ideal for getting in and out of traffic.  
But what about getting in and out of the car itself?

That's something we considered very carefully when  
designing the Fiat Uno.

You'll find its exceptionally wide doors allow for easy access into a  
spacious interior. While the exterior still gives you all the advantages of  
a small car.

The Uno Selecta has an added advantage. It features the revolutionary  
'Continuously Variable Transmission'.

Put simply, it enables you to always be in the right gear at the right time.

As well as being more economical than other automatics, it's also  
smoother (so your shopping won't be sliding off the back seat  
between gears).

What's more, if you have a mobility allowance you're eligible for special  
reductions and finance deals.

Phone 0800 521581 and we'll put you in touch with your local Fiat dealer.

They'll be able to tell you how our Mobility Scheme can improve your  
mobility. Inside as well as out.



# The Other Flower Show (fully accessible)...

## Geraldine Holden reports

Visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show making their way across Battersea Bridge last month must have wondered why hundreds of people with disabilities were going the other way, into Battersea Park.

The reason was The Other Flower Show, Horticultural Therapy's first flower show, cleverly timed to attract maximum interest in the pleasures (and problems) of gardening for people with special needs.

The one-day event attracted nearly 1,000 people from as far away as Sheffield and Portsmouth and there were over 160 exhibits ranging from hanging baskets in the main display tent to magnificent flower arrangements in the greenhouse.

Competitors had made miniature gardens, planted in everything from jars, old pipes and egg boxes to hand made pottery bases and, in one case, a guitar.

And as well as looking at other people's work, visitors could have a go at making a hanging basket themselves to take away.

Gardening from a wheelchair, or when you cannot bend, presents special problems. Ruth Tessler, HT's Gardening Adviser, was at The Other Flower Show, with a range of tools, to give advice and answer questions.

"The thing to stress is that everyone's requirements are different," she says "and gardeners should try out tools before



Winifred Kenning from Streatham gets the 1st prize trophy for her miniature garden from Jonathan Morris of BBC1's Bread.

buying anything."

She recommends finding a handle which is a comfortable length and then buying a variety

of detachable heads.

The ones on show from Wolf Tools were detached by a simple "one-push" button which did

not need much pressure and just slid back on.

Birte Schick, currently at Stanmore Spinal Injuries Unit in Middlesex, was at Battersea for the day. She had started building a raised garden before an accident. Now she uses a wheelchair, she wants to finish the raised bed and grow vegetables.

Another visitor at the show was Colin Gurteen, also a wheelchair user. His father was a nurseryman, so gardening has always been part of his life. His problem is gripping tools as he has little power in his upper body.

"Like most things for disabled people, adapted gardening tools are very expensive," he said. "Some of them are very heavy and don't cater for people who have a poor grip."

Colin's solution is to fix ordinary wooden spoons inside his pushing glove with Velcro, which gives him more "push" and hand control. He also attaches Velcro to conventional tool handles and fixes this round his wrist and hand.

The Other Flower Show was held at Horticultural Therapy's demonstration garden which in just over 3 years has attracted more than 6,000 people.

Plans are going ahead to open gardens in Sheffield and the London borough of Islington, with others, possibly, in Manchester, Burnley, Slough and Dulwich, funds permitting.

## Gardeners' question time

Horticultural Therapy run a library and also produce leaflets about different kinds of gardening needs with lists of equipment, prices and manufacturers' addresses. Members get a quarterly magazine called *Growth Point* which has HT news, information, book reviews and details of courses. For details of membership or publications write to Horticultural Therapy, Goulds Ground, Vallis Way, Frome, Somerset BA11 3DW, enclosing an SAE, or tel: (0373) 64782.

Gardens for the Disabled Trust, provides practical and financial help for disabled gardeners. It runs The Garden Club which publishes a quarterly newsletter. Applicants for grants to adapt gardens must be members of the club for at least one year. For details write to Mrs Marjorie Haines, Church Cottage, Headcorn, Kent TN27 9NP.

### Useful books and booklets

*Gardening - Equipment for the Disabled*, £4.50 + p&p, Equipment for the Disabled, Mary Marlborough Lodge, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington, Oxford OX3 7LD, tel: (0865) 75013.

*Gardening is for Everyone*, £4.95, Souvenir Press, 43 Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3PA.

*Gardening without sight*, free, Royal National Institute for the Blind, 224 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6AA, tel: 01-388 1266. Available in braille or print.

*Gardening*, free, Help the Aged, St James Walk, London EC1R 0BE, tel: 01-250 3399.

### Tool manufacturers

Wolf Tools, Alton Road, Ross on Wye, Hereford HR9 5NE, tel: (0989) 67600.

"Specialist" and "Inter Change" ranges, Spear & Jackson, Neill Tools Ltd, Handsworth Road, Sheffield S13 9BR, tel: (0742) 449911.

## ...competes with world-famous Chelsea

### Merle Davies and Mary Wilkinson go along

Chelsea Flower Show, the Mecca for gardening enthusiasts, was celebrating its 75th anniversary last month.

So popular has it become, that there are plans to move to a larger site.

For wheelchair gardeners this could be good news. Chelsea is renowned for its friendly police and security staff; lavatories for disabled people have been thoughtfully provided. But there are still many hurdles facing someone in a wheelchair.

First, there is no disabled parking. When Merle Davies arrived, alone in her car, she was directed across Battersea Bridge

mented the helper.

Both wheelchair visitors had trouble in the world's largest marquee. Merle was glad of someone to help her up the grass verge into the marquee, and push her over the soft, uneven ground and up and down the temporary soil and pebble ramps. "I wouldn't have liked to be here on my own", she said.

Mr Kenney wondered what the marquee would be like in a day or two after crowds had been tramping round.

Inaccessibility extended even to show gardens designed with disabled people in mind. Both the London Association of the Blind and Help the Aged had gardens approached by a step -

to small seating areas.

"If I was in sheltered housing I would think I was a lucky person to walk out into that", commented actress Thora Hird after looking round.

Merle Davies liked the private seating. "You've got the best of both worlds - you can either sit and talk to people or find your own nook." She thought the conservatory was a nice idea to protect people from the wind.

"Obviously this garden is designed for ambulant elderly people", she said. "But it's feasible for wheelchairs."

(To coincide with the Flower Show, Help the Aged has published a helpful advice leaflet for elderly gardeners, see right.)

The London Association for the Blind garden, designed by Peter Rogers, put into practice several of the recommendations in its new advice document, *Towards an Integrated Park*.

The garden offered texture, scent, sound and strong colour in a safe setting for visually impaired people.

There were raised beds, textured paving and a bubble fountain which played over raised stones, surrounded by a wall you could sit on.

"Designating an area within a park as exclusively for 'the blind' is not what is needed or wanted", said Peter Holland, director of the LAB. "Gardens are for the enjoyment of everyone and it only takes a little re-thinking and adaptation to make them so."

The document has been sent to all royal and municipal parks.

Like other visitors, we gave ourselves too little time to see everything, particularly to do justice to all the equipment on show.

An award-winning pump can from Plantpak looked interesting: you pump water from a plastic bottle up a 9ft tube to reach hanging baskets or perhaps a

plant that is out of reach. Lighter than a watering-can, from £5.99, at garden centres or cash-and-carry shops.

Spear & Jackson had launched two ranges of garden tools - the "Specialist", developed for disabled and elderly people with various modifications including a shorter, lightweight handle, and "Inter Change", 11 tool heads and a choice of handles - the only British-made range.

The Glasgow Garden Festival, which goes on until the end of September, features a garden designed with the disabled gardener in mind. Workshops are being run throughout the festival on the themes of horticulture, physical disabilities and mental health. For details contact Alison Boyle, OT Department, Philipshill Hospital, East Kilbride Road, Clarkston, Glasgow G76 9HP, tel: 041-644 1144.



MP John Hannam in LAB's aromatic garden with LAB director Peter Holland (left) and staff, Mary Gantry and Mervin Jones.

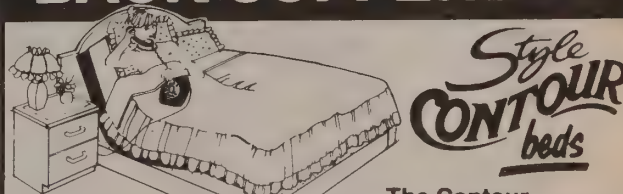
to Battersea Park. She knew she couldn't wheel herself back that far and she was dubious about the transit bus being accessible. Eventually, she persuaded the police to let her in.

Another visitor, George Kenney from Paddock Wood in Kent, was wheeled all the way from the park. "It was okay because I had a strong helper", he said. "Weaker now", com-

although Help the Aged's designer, Robin Williams, pointed out that the garden was only meant to be viewed from the roadway.

Now on his third project for the charity, Mr Williams had designed a Victorian-style garden for a residential home or sheltered housing complex. There was a fountain and pool, a conservatory, raised beds of flowers and herbs and walkways leading

## RELIEF FOR BACK SUFFERERS



The Contour Adjustable bed is designed for those who find it impossible to get a good night's sleep on a conventional bed.

By the touch of a button the Contour bed can be adjusted to any position and assists towards peaceful sleep. It is particularly beneficial to those suffering with arthritic, rheumatic, respiratory and mobility problems, etc.

- Single, double or dual twin models
- Cordless remote control
- Fire resistant mattress
- Vibro-massage option

Please send me more details about Contour beds  
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

My interest relates to: (Please tick appropriate box)

☐ COMFORT ☐ HEALTH

Style House, 30, Marshall Street, Holloway Head, Birmingham B1 1LE. Tel: 021-631 4833

DN7/88



# THEATRE

## Mrs Wobble the Waitress

"When it is very hard to walk or talk, kindness may fail and encouragement may have no effect, but inspiration can unlock the door."

So said Marjory Lady Allen of Hurtwood, a much loved aunt with whom Richard and Liz Gill (who set up the Polka Children's Theatre) in Wimbledon, South London, worked closely for many years.

She was the acknowledged world expert in pre-school education, play equipment and playground design - especially for disabled children. Many of her ideas are in use at Polka.

Her influence can be seen, I think, in *Mrs Wobble the Waitress* from the book by Allan and Janet Ahlberg, adapted by Vicky Ireland, which implants the understanding of equal opportunities, if not positive discrimination, into the minds of children.

Too good to be true? But in a way the Polka Children's Theatre itself is too good to be true. It has everything you could have wished for as a child. There's a kiosk selling brightly-coloured barley sugar sweets and thin sticks of rock, with little baskets of "treasures" which don't cost all your pocket money. In the children's tea room there are "real" cakes with coloured icing. The tables are low and half the tea room is actually a mock-up of a toy train.

My only problem was having to sit at the front of the auditorium because they hadn't known that I was disabled - another theatre that needs prior warning so that they can take seats out.

The theatre filled with excited children as I was escorted to my aisle and I wished, slightly, that I was 3 years old too.

Mrs Wobble is very wobbly, not because she's fat but because, well, she wobbles.

Her employer in the cafe, Mr Alphonso, asks: "Did I detect a wobble?" "Mrs Wobble always wobbles, but we don't mind," reply Mr and Mrs Vicar, but she is still given the sack.

"Oh no, Mrs Wobble can't leave... we love her," they say,

open a cafe of our own and we'll call it The Wobbles Cosy Cafe".

The children then have a brilliant idea, organise a plan and rush off secretly.

Mr Alphonso has arranged for the health inspector to visit the Wobble's new cafe because he knows how Mrs Wobble tends to throw the food around.

As Mrs Wobble drops the soup, the children charge in on roller skates with a bowl and catch it. They catch everything she drops.



David Rodgers and Zalie Burrow in *Mrs Wobble the Waitress*.

and she is given another chance.

She spills soup on the dog and is given the sack again. When a chicken lands on the head of Mr Alphonso's fiancée she is given the sack once and for all.

Mrs Wobble admits, quite reasonably, that she wobbles because her employer makes her nervous.

Back at home she is very upset because she loved her job. Her husband says: "Don't be upset, you've got to bounce back. Let's

The health inspector is very impressed and says: "It's more fun than a circus and I don't think you have a case, Mr Alphonso."

So there is a happy ending. But Mrs Wobble says: "The only trouble is, what if I don't wobble?"

Isobel Ward

*Mrs Wobble the Waitress will be at the Riverside Studios on 6 July at 10.30am.*

# BOOKS

## Arthritis - A Practical Guide to Coping

by Dr Richard Price  
(Crowood Press, Crowood House, Ramsbury, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 2HE, £2.95)

This book seeks to "clarify and amplify information which may not have been taken in (or given) at a busy and unnerving clinic attendance."

There is an important need for such a book, and this one succeeds admirably in giving clear explanations of a wide range of conditions, whilst avoiding oversimplification. The book is illustrated throughout by excellent line drawings.

Chapter one, "What is arthritis?", is particularly good. I doubt that it would be possible to find a symptom of any form of rheumatoid or osteo-arthritis, including gout, that Dr Price does not mention. He also touches on questions which might be raised by sufferers on topics ranging from diet and exercise to sex, pregnancy and genetics.

The disadvantage of such a wide-ranging approach in a small book is that many conditions are necessarily dealt with briefly;

someone with such a condition may be left with unanswered questions.

Another potential problem is that in covering so many forms of arthritis, from the mild and temporary to the chronic and severe, it may be distressing for people who are only just coming to terms with the disease.

The information about drug treatments is comprehensive, ranging from simple analgesics through anti-inflammatory drugs to steroids and gold, detailing both the benefits and disadvantages of each group. I know from personal experience that anti-inflammatory drugs can sometimes cause skin problems and a tendency for water retention.

I think Dr Price is right to be sceptical about the effect of diet on arthritis. People with arthritis should not be persuaded to make radical dietary changes without medical advice.

Although he devotes a chapter to alternative medicine, Dr Price is also sceptical about its value. Indeed, the entire book reflects the orthodox medical viewpoint.

Information on day-to-day coping, despite the subtitle, is rather limited. For this reason, I recommend this book be read in conjunction with a good book detailing personal experiences of living with arthritis. These themes are complementary, and together would provide a comprehensive guide to the problems of all forms of arthritis.

Paul Wilkes

## Dressing Matters

by Philippa Moore  
(Disabled Living Foundation, £10.95 inc p&g, available from Haigh & Hochland, International University Booksellers, The Precinct Centre, Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9QA)

This is probably the first detailed handbook which takes the subject of dressing for people with learning difficulties seriously.

For the institutional or the family carer burdened with this daily, time-consuming task, it provides inspiration and numerous practical hints to ease a variety of difficult situations.

The writer calls on carers to be teachers and helps them to look at and tackle the physical, psychological and environmental reasons which hinder independent dressing.

Achieving independent dressing is her ultimate goal, for it gives the cared-for person a new freedom and makes him acceptable to others - that is if he is dressed in the right clothes at the right time. Hence the chapter on clothing and its associations.

The list of books, videos and helpful organisations reminds us as carers that we are not alone.

We may also call on specialists from the community teams.

I found the book made some very positive points. For example, that even a person who has to lie down may be helped to dress himself provided someone is prepared to install mirrors on the ceiling! Also, that the feelings, dignity and personal preferences of the slow learner are to be taken into account as much as what is to be taught.

The appendix on "additional activities" deserves attention as dressing skills form part of other developmental skills. However, as the basis for all learning lies in babyhood, the book might be extended by a chapter on "baby and toddler movements and fingerplay", which contribute to later dressing.

Coming from an occupational therapist who has worked with and listened to those at the grassroots, the book rings true. It is also easy to read: chapters are cut down into short paragraphs with bold type headings. The summaries and drawings clarify Philippa Moore's points, while the index completes what is a genuine handbook.

Elisabeth Blackwell

A video is also available.

## Booklets

**The Hemiplegic Child**, first published by The Spastics Society in 1964, has been updated by David Scrutton, Superintendent Physiotherapist at the Newcomen Centre, Guy's Hospital. It describes simple exercises that parents can do with their child at home which will encourage the use of the affected hand and leg.

"The idea is to make these exercises part of the child's normal play or part of a useful activity," says the booklet. Using a toy wheelbarrow or washing a plastic doll in the bath, for example, can help a child to use both hands and develop the affected hand as a helping hand.

The booklet tells parents how to unclench a hand, help the child to crawl, sit up, walk, jump, skip and develop the sense of

touch. The text is easy to read and supported with charming photos of a small girl called Grace doing the exercises. £2.50 from The Spastics Society's bookshop, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.

**The Disability Rights Handbook** (13th edition, April 1988-April 1989) gives up-to-date, detailed information on the benefit changes which came into operation in April, including the new income support and housing benefit, as well as other benefits like Attendance and Mobility Allowances or Invalidity Benefit. Essential reading for claimants and their advisers. £3.50, post free, from the Disability Alliance ERA, 25 Denmark Street, London WC2 8NJ.

Mary Wilkinson

# CARCHAIR



## CARCHAIR LEADS BY PUTTING YOU IN FRONT

—and there's room for the family too!

HEAD OFFICE:

Car Chair Ltd., Dept. (DN), Car Chair House, Station Rd. Ind. Est., Hailsham, E. Sussex BN27 2ES Tel: (0323) 840283



# DANCE

## Carousel

Painful, difficult and at times almost unbearably grim, *The Wandering* (Brighton Festival, May) succeeded in articulating feelings of isolation and powerlessness that the lucky will only ever glimpse, but which are a day-to-day reality for many others.

Created by people with and without learning difficulties, this dance-drama explored the theme of "exclusion and the struggle for communication."

It was split into 4 sections. Emergence, Searching and Discovery used colour, movement and original music by Cathy Lane and Gordon Young to create an atmosphere of paranoia and relentless gloom.

Relief came at last in Realisation, when dance, tape loops and fluorescent make up combined in a celebration of co-operation and communication. Only then did the 24 performers allow themselves to show signs of having enjoyed themselves.

*The Wandering* was a product of 8 days of intensive workshops conducted by The Carousel Project. The 6 staff members of Carousel use a mixed-art approach to improve the self-awareness, social skills, and non-verbal communication of disabled children and adults and people with learning difficulties so as to smooth their integration into the community. They also train unemployed people in group work and practical arts skills.

Carousel is now 5 years old and facing the withdrawal of 2 of its major sources of funding. After the show, Sir Richard Attenborough appealed to the audience to do all they could to save the project. "To let Carousel collapse through lack of funds would be a scandal," he said.

Julian Marshall



Hamlet (Nabil Shaban) and Horatio (Hugh Hayes) in one of their "convincing" scenes together.

# THEATRE

## Hamlet 88

What was striking about the Cleveland Theatre Company's "modern treatment" of *Hamlet*, at the Half Moon Theatre, London last month, was not so much the high-tech, radically cut, 2-hour long production, as the mesmeric performance of Nabil Shaban in the central role, an actor who has brittle bones and uses a wheelchair.

Directed by Alasdair Ramsay, *Hamlet 88* set out to be accessible to modern audiences by using 1980s media gadgetry which symbolised a corrupt and repressive regime.

The set was dominated by the giant face of Hamlet's uncle, Claudius (Glenn Cunningham) on a video screen, creating a feeling of Big Brother surveillance. Video monitors relayed the stage action onto a bank of television screens.

For a cast of 7, with a text shorn of sub-plots, the screen

was a useful device. While Hamlet and Horatio (Hugh Hayes) plotted, we could see the marriage of Hamlet's mother Gertrude (Kate Dove) and uncle Claudius going on behind them, and later *The Mousetrap*, "the play within the play".

But this approach had distracting inconsistencies. For example, Polonius (Adrian McLoughlin) still hid behind an arras in the famous scene where Hamlet mistakenly kills him — even though video monitors and cordless telephones were the tools for eavesdropping and plotting elsewhere.

What really made the play accessible was Nabil Shaban's timeless performance as Hamlet. He spoke Shakespeare's language as naturally as if it was his own and by giving it meaning, made the play come alive.

Brandishing a rapier, spinning around the stage in his wheelchair, daubed in body paint, he played out all Hamlet's complexities from glee to impotent anguish, his wit and intellect as sharp as his sword-play. He used his whole body more effectively from his wheelchair than the rest of the able-bodied cast used theirs.

The tragic irony for Hamlet is that his actions, so premeditated, constantly misfire or

backfire. Nabil Shaban counterpointed Hamlet's railing against the world with a dry, sardonic tone which mocked his own failings as well as those of his family.

Horatio, Hamlet's friend and ally, was movingly acted by Hugh Hayes and their scenes together were warm and convincing.

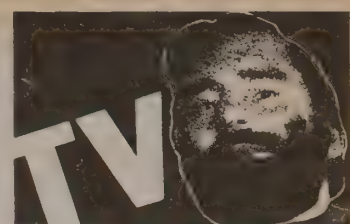
Adrian McLoughlin as Polonius was also good; he played his character as an unconsciously funny civil servant with the soul of a bureaucrat.

But the women's roles were never flesh-and-blood characters, particularly in Ophelia's case (Greta Michaelson), perhaps because so many lines were cut. It was hard to believe that these women could inspire such profound emotions in Hamlet, and it was a measure of Nabil Shaban's acting talent that despite such weaknesses, Hamlet remained a fascinating and tragic figure.

A thought-provoking production whose modern setting tried to bring out one of Shakespeare's themes — the difficulty of distinguishing between appearance and reality.

It also gave a strong boost to the argument for integrated casts and wider roles for people with disabilities.

Geraldine Holden



## Tumbledown: the realistic face of heroism

The disability caused by a sniper's bullet occupied a surprisingly small part of *Tumbledown* (BBC1, 31 May).

Over 42 per cent of Robert Lawrence's brain was shot away on *Tumbledown* Mountain during the Falklands war. Initially this paralysed him completely, but from being confined to bed and then to a wheelchair, he progressed to the point where paralysis now affects only one side of his body, and he can walk.

Much of the film reminded me of *Reach for the Sky*, the Kenneth Moore movie about Douglas Bader. Bader was bloody-minded, but the film presented him in such a sanitised way that all that emerged was squeaky clean virtue. The character of Lawrence in *Tumbledown* however was rather arrogant and not very pleasant. For me, if this is the realistic face of heroism, it's more acceptable than the saccharin version. Precisely because of his arrogance, Robert Lawrence now walks. The effort involved in achieving this was under-stated, but was all the more effective for it. There was plenty of emotion in the play, but one didn't feel manipulated.

Sadly the same cannot be said about the *ITV Telethon* (ITV, 29-30 May). The amount of money raised was magnificent and many organisations will gain, but do the ends always justify the means? I missed about 10 hours of the 27 hour long programme, but every image of disability I saw seemed calculated to gain money through tears. Comic Relief's disability item earlier this year (see *DN March*) showed that appeals don't have to be emotive.

Similarly, I have doubts about the SOS Special Award, given as part of the *Star Awards* (BBC1, 30 May). This trophy is presented either to someone who has helped people to overcome their handicap or to someone who has overcome their own handicap. (The terminology here is from the programme!) If disabled people were to look at our own community and give recognition to those who have done most to champion our progress, this may be acceptable. But I cannot really see how able-bodied young people can evaluate the criteria for this prize — to some, for a disabled person just to get on with life is seen as an "achievement".

The winner this year was the head teacher of a school attended by two young people with Downs Syndrome, who were featured dancing to music by Andrew Lloyd-Webber in a previous *Going Live* programme. Their dance was shown again on *Star Awards*, making it seem even odder that the award went not to the performers themselves but to their non-disabled principal.

Chris Davies

*ITV's excellent Getting in on the Act* (a 4-part consumer guide to using and pushing for implementation of the Disabled Persons Act 1986) will be shown on TV South each Sunday at 1.20pm from 31 July to 21 August — don't miss it!

## Fiat's bestselling Uno goes automatic

The UNO is one of Europe's best selling small family cars with a reputation for both reliability and strength.

The CVT automatic gear box fitted to it is the same as the one on the Ford Fiesta (see *DN August 1987*).

Fiat styling, however, has always been different and the cars stand out from the crowd. The UNO has a utilitarian look about it and a box-like shape you either like or hate. The shape does make the car very easy to drive and park in the smallest places.

The first thing I noticed was that it was much easier to get in and out of this car than many others I have tested. Wide doors (even on the four-door), a high seat and firm springs all help. The seat is not contoured like some models so sliding across and stowing the wheelchair is also easy.

The rear seats fold to give an adequate storage area for the manual wheelchair although an electric wheelchair may be a problem, but when the seat is in its normal position the only chair that would fit was the NHS standard issue with the back folded down.



The interior hasn't changed much since we reviewed the UNO more than two years ago. The switches are all accessible without taking your hands from the steering wheel and that makes driving with hand controls much safer.

The whole driver's layout is extremely compact and the heating and ventilation system is one of the best I have tested in a small car. The addition of a rear hatch release lever under the driver's seat is a real advantage for the person whose passenger gets the chair from the back in the rain.

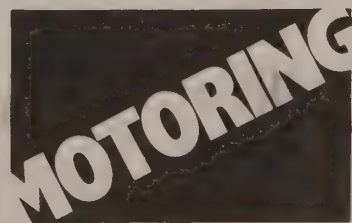
One black mark is the manual choke control: it is difficult to

operate and would be below hand controls if they were fitted.

Other drawbacks are armrests positioned so that it is almost impossible to get anything small out of the door pockets and window winders which wind the wrong way and are too close to the steering wheel.

On the road, the car is lighter than the Ford and responds well to the automatic gear box. Although it is slow compared to other cars in this class, it is quiet and the positive brakes and steering would make a new or nervous driver feel very secure.

The gear selector lever may be difficult for someone with poor hand control as it is not the con-



ventional T-bar shape. A nice touch is an alarm that sounds when the ignition is switched off without the lever in "park".

On an extended road test I found that fuel consumption was as economical as the figures quoted. The test car was not set to run on unleaded petrol, but no doubt this will come.

John Byworth

### Technical Information

The UNO Selecta has a transversely mounted 4-cylinder, 1116 cc engine, capable of a maximum speed of 92 mph and 0-62 mph in 15.5 seconds.

### Fuel Consumption

Urban cycle, 37.2 mpg  
Constant 56 mph, 58.9 mpg  
Constant 75 mph, 43.5 mpg

### Price

3 door, £6,554  
5 door, £6,805  
The resale value over 3 years will be poor.

Further information from Fiat Auto UK, Bakers Court, Bakers Road, Uxbridge, tel: (0895) 51212.



# Share Your Problems

With Margaret Morgan

## Communication is the key

"I must comment on your column in April, as I have the same problem as Debbie's mother (except that I think my daughter is very much more handicapped) in attempting to come to terms with a placement which is far from home.

Susie was at home for 11 years and is now 15 and goes to a good home and school – and yet I am finding it harder to cope with the separation now, after 4 years. The staff at the home have my sympathy in having to cope with my – and my husband's – emotional state every time we visit.

I would, however, like to mention yet another aspect of 'letting go'.

When homes cannot be carefully selective about intake and the helpless have to be surrounded and harassed by the destructive, it is small wonder that we parents are over-anxious, especially when there are accidents because of constant staff pressures. There seem to be dangerous 'gaps' in care.

Many and diverse skills are demanded of the staff and yet the pay is low. The inexperienced are, therefore, taken on and there is a constant staff turnover.

Our daughter has had 4 key workers in 4 years and one change in the management of the home (to say nothing of 3 changes of teacher).

I don't count the socks (here I refer to your comment) because I just couldn't. I just keep supplying new clothes and more new clothes in the hope that Susie may perhaps occasionally not look like an untidy orphan. (These children lose any appeal at all, I think, if they are not at least well-dressed. This is even more important when they are

away from home.)

I feel isolated, trapped and choked with tears most often and have tried to thrash things out in the past with social workers, a psychiatrist and a marriage guidance counsellor.

I go to work like a run-down robot where I temporarily forget about my problems and then feel guilty.

But I have to think of those brave people who are prepared to take on the role of carers and provide my daughter with a better quality of life than I could latterly give her.

I have to admit, too, that my

## Share your problems by phone

If you want advice on a personal or spiritual problem, why not talk to Lin Berwick, *Disability Now's* telephone counsellor, who is disabled herself?

Lin is at the end of the line on Monday afternoons from 1pm to 5pm, and on Thursdays from 6pm to 10pm.

Her telephone number is Hornchurch (04024) 58325.

child is basically quite happy and having a wealth of experience I had never dreamed she could have. If only she were round the corner and not hundreds of miles away. I suppose that is like saying 'If only she were not damaged!'

I fully accept the points you make and appreciate your feelings of isolation and powerlessness, especially as your daughter is so far from home.

It is good to know that Susie is basically happy and enjoying new and wider experiences, but it is clear that your anxiety and concern about the not-so-good



aspects and dangerous gaps in care outweigh the positive side of her placement.

It is easy for professionals to label parents as 'over-anxious', or to say that they are projecting their guilt on to the staff, and then try to persuade them to alleviate the negative feelings by counselling or therapy. In reality, many people have to go on facing difficult and worrying situations which they feel – and probably are – quite unable to influence.

William Horwood, the father of a daughter with cerebral palsy, in his intriguing novel *Skallagrigg*, conveys very dramatically the powerlessness of many people with severe physical disabilities, especially when they also have unintelligible speech.

One of his aims in writing *Skallagrigg* seems to be to help his readers to understand more fully the complex emotions and reactions of people with disabilities, and of their parents and friends as well. The sophisticated computer game which Esther invents was planned to "lead the player from the comforting fantasy world he seeks to a reality he finds hard to confront...To be heroes, to be romantically loved, to be adventurers on a quest, to be almost anything but what Esther and Eddie are, is easy to imagine. But to be *them*, to be *them*? I fear the *Skallagrigg* may ask it of us if we are to know him."

Another breakdown in communication and failure to understand feelings was portrayed in last month's BBC film *Tumbledown* (see also page 15) based on the story of Robert Lawrence MC, a young lieutenant in the Scots Guards who, while fighting in the Falklands war, lost 40 per cent of his brain when he was hit in the back of the head by a high velocity bullet.

Some professionals, who ought to have known better, seem to have been unaware of the psychological effects of severe head injury, many of which Robert Lawrence was showing during the course of his recovery.

*Skallagrigg* and *Tumbledown* have very different messages, but both emphasise the vital importance of effective communication, not only for those with speech or disability problems, but for everyone.

Maybe if we can learn to understand more about *how* people feel, and *why*, we will be able to alleviate or even remove some of the problems that are causing stress and unhappiness to many parents, relatives and friends, as well as to children, adolescents and adults with disabilities.

*Skallagrigg* by William Horwood (see DN review, December 1987), is now a Penguin paperback, £4.50.

When the Fighting is Over by John Lawrence and Robert Lawrence, Bloomsbury, £12.95. *Tumbledown* by Charles Wood, the script of the BBC film, Penguin, £3.95.

## WHAT'S ON

### Conferences and leisure

**Henley Festival of Music & the Arts**, 6–9 July, has everything from English Chamber Music to Caribbean Steel bands, together with a floating stage, exhibitions of art and sculpture, jugglers, acrobats, dancers, and 20' high illuminated fountains. As most of the events are going on in a grass enclosure by the Thames, there is wheelchair access. Lawn tickets cost £13-£25 and are available from the Henley Festival Box Office, 27 Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 2AR. Tel: (0491) 575751/575834.

A **Transport Conference**, organised by The Spastics Society's SE Region Alpha committee, will be held on 9 July, 10am–4.15pm, at the Brixton Conference Centre, 336 Brixton Road, London SW2. The morning speaker will be Ann Frye from the Department of Transport's disability unit, afternoon speakers are Ann Hodgett from Motability and Tracey Booth from London Dial-a-Ride. For more information, or help with transport, call Kevin Holmes on (0705) 697954.

**Creative Therapy with Elderly People** is a one-day course on 21 July organised by Disabled Living Services. The aim is for participants to learn the use of creative activities and how to apply them in different work situations. The course will run from 9.30am–4pm at Redbank House, 4 St Chads Street, Cheetham, Manchester M8 8QA, cost £25. Details from Brenda Dickinson on 061-832 3678.

The **New Forest Half Marathon**, 4 September and the **Windsor Great Park Half Marathon**, 2 October are inviting wheelchair competitors to participate. There will be 2 categories, self-propelled and pushed. Both races are asking athletes to raise sponsorship for The Spastics Society and to send a team of cp athletes to the Seoul Paralympics. All race entries must be in by 2 September. Entry forms from Mrs A Hunt, The Spastics Society, PO Box 42, Windsor, Berks SL4 2NN.

**16th World Congress of Rehabilitation International** is to be held in Tokyo, Japan, 5-9 September. There are expected to be over 2,000 delegates and speakers from all over the world. Information on fees and registration from the Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, 22-1 1-chome Toyuma, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 162, Japan.

**SENSE** (the National Deaf-Blind and Rubella Association) are holding their fifth annual **Weekend Away** at Birmingham University, from 23-25 September. The programme will cover leisure and education to communication and computers with an exhibition of equipment, a creche and many social events, ending with the SENSE AGM. Application forms from Carmel Perry, 311 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8PT, tel: 01-278 1005.

An **Aid for Living Exhibition** at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge, 24-25 September is being sponsored by the Tonbridge Lions Club. Manufacturers will show home aids for people with disabilities, and organisations which provide services for disabled people will also have stands. The centre is accessible for wheelchair users. For further details contact Mr Sturgeon, 61 Willow Lea, Tonbridge, Kent TN10 3RE, tel: (0732) 359299.

**Dramatherapy at the National Theatre, London.** A special seminar is being run, 21-22 October, to explore the relationship between theatre and dramatherapy. Participants will go to a National Theatre production, followed by improvisation workshops. The fee is £32. Further details from Dramatherapy Consultants, 6 Nelson Avenue, St Albans, Herts AL1 5RY, tel: (0727) 33069.

**Children and Adolescents with Spina Bifida** is the title of a conference from 25-27 January 1989, organised by The Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre in Canada. The theme for the conference will be Issues and Challenges in Educational Settings. For detailed information about the programme and the cost, write to Barb Smith, Educational Services, The Hugh MacMillan Medical Centre, 350 Rumsey Road, Toronto, Ontario M4G 1R8, Canada, no later than 9 September.

An **International Conference on Dyslexia**, specific learning difficulties and special educational needs, is being organised by The British Dyslexia Association for 29 March–1 April 1989 at Bath College of Further Education. The conference is for professionals in related fields. For details contact Dr H Chasty on (0734) 668271/2.

**ISEC 1990** is an International Special Education Congress from 30 July–3 August 1990, at University College, Cardiff. The theme will be: Special Educational Needs – Created or Met? For details contact Colin Tyre, Chief Education Psychologist, County of South Glamorgan, School Psychological Service, Gabalfa House, 213a North Road, Cardiff CF4 3AG.

### Courses at Castle Priory

**Personal Relationships and Sexuality** – an introductory course for staff working with people who have physical disabilities. Course tutors from FPA. 16-18 September. Tuition £69. Residence £49. Non-residence £20.

**Phonology and Articulation Workshop** – for speech therapists and teachers of children with special learning difficulties. 19 September. Fee £19.50 inclusive.

**The Hand as a Guide to Learning** – a repeat course for teachers, therapists or care staff led by Ester Cotton. 23-25 September. Tuition £69. Residence £49. Non-residence £20.

**Being Assertive** – for people with disabilities and those working with them who see skills in assertiveness as assets in developing confidence in social and working relationships. (Numbers strictly limited). 26-28 September. Tuition £75. Residence £49. Non-residence £20.

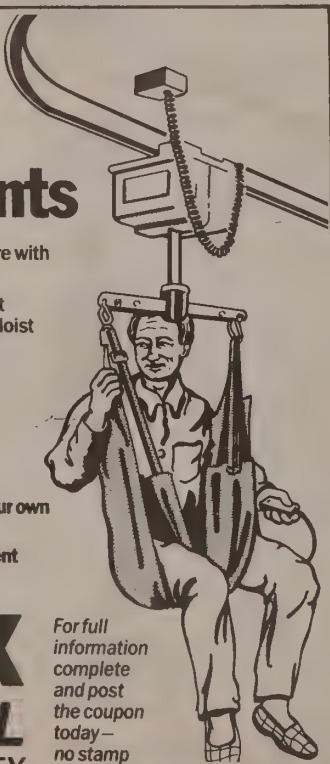
Further information from Castle Priory College, Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 0HE. Please enclose SAE. Tel: (0491) 37551.

## Make light work of lifting patients

Lifting heavy patients is no longer a chore with a hoist from the Wessex range.

Whether you choose the Wessex Patient Hoist, Travelmaster or the New Orkney Hoist system, you will be able to lift even the heaviest patient with ease.

- Simple, smooth, reliable operation.
- Suited for use within the bathroom or hydrotherapy units.
- Full range of slings and harnesses.
- Nationwide installation services by our own engineers.
- Free, nationwide, advisory assessment service.



For full information complete and post the coupon today – no stamp needed or phone: 0794 522022.

**WESSEX MEDICAL**  
ABILITY IN DISABILITY

Please send me free colour brochures on the Wessex range of hoists and slings.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Job Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Post to: Wessex Medical, FREEPOST – no stamp needed, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 8ZT

DN/7/88



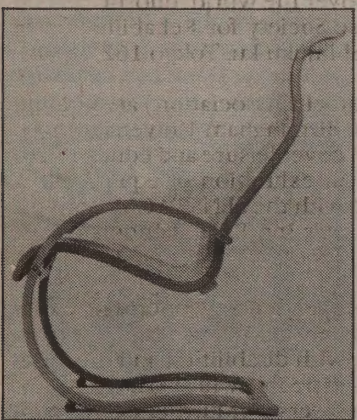
## PRODUCT BRIEFING

DN's pick of what's new or interesting on the market

### Are you sitting comfortably?



Britax-Excelsior Ltd has re-designed its **Star Riser** booster seat, which raises a child to the right height and angle to use seatbelts in the backseats of cars. No special fittings are required and the booster is suitable for children aged 4 years upwards. Available from most car accessory and nursery retail shops price £14, or from Britax, tel: (09323) 41121.



Scan-Sit's range of posture-correct seating is functional, flexible and comfortable. Their chairs are designed to encourage natural posture in a variety of positions and so help reduce backache, headache and muscle cramp.

Their selection of Norwegian **Balans** chairs has models for babies upwards, and for any environment, from office to dining room and chairs for relaxing in.

The newest addition to the Scan-Sit range is the German-built **Buggy** - a swivel chair on castors for children over 4 years.

Pictured is the new Laminelli seat, built of strong, flexible wood. For details of stockists and prices of all Scan-Sit furniture, write to Unit 4, 111 Mortlake Road, Kew, Richmond, Surrey or tel: 01-392 1896.



Joncare has a newly imported range of **Calergos** - plastic granule-filled cushions and mattresses which hold any shape they are molded into when the air is pumped out. The fully washable 'mold-and-hold' range keep their shape for 5 days, giving full ergonomic support and helping to prevent bedsores. For details of prices write to Joncare Ltd, 7 Ashville Trading Estate, Nuffield Way, Abingdon OX14 1RL, or tel: (0235) 28120.

## Make-up for blind women: The Body Shop has it taped

Karen Wingate reports

Many blind or visually handicapped women are put off using make-up because of lack of confidence and unhelpful shop assistants, but now they have the chance to give it a try, with a little expert help.

Make-up artist Barbara Daly, who has made up such famous faces as Princess Diana, Joan Collins and Jerry Hall, has made a tape for The Body Shop which promises to "replace the mystique with the technique" of make-up, for people with a visual handicap.

On the tape Barbara Daly takes actress Kate Portál, who is blind herself, through the process of making-up, from foundation, face powder and blusher to eye shadow and lipstick. She answers many of the most common questions blind women have along the way. The tape is deliberately timed to allow time for making-up as you listen.

Among the important tips Barbara Daly gives are to tie your hair right back out of the way before starting and to put your make-up on before getting dressed, to avoid marking your clothes.

She also gives advice on make-up for different ages, how to get a smooth finish and choosing the right colour cosmetics for yourself.

Some blind or visually handicapped people are reluctant to attract attention to their eyes, but a good dash of lipstick will do the job of brightening up your face just as well, says Barbara Daly.

The idea of the tape came

from a series of workshops with local blind groups, aimed at showing them the fun of experimenting with lotions and potions.

"The Body Shop lends itself beautifully to working with the blind and partially sighted," said Barbara Daly. "The wonderful smells and aromas that our products are famous for are great stimulants. As a result of working with the groups, I felt that one of the major areas of attack had to be in helping explain that make-up can be made easy."

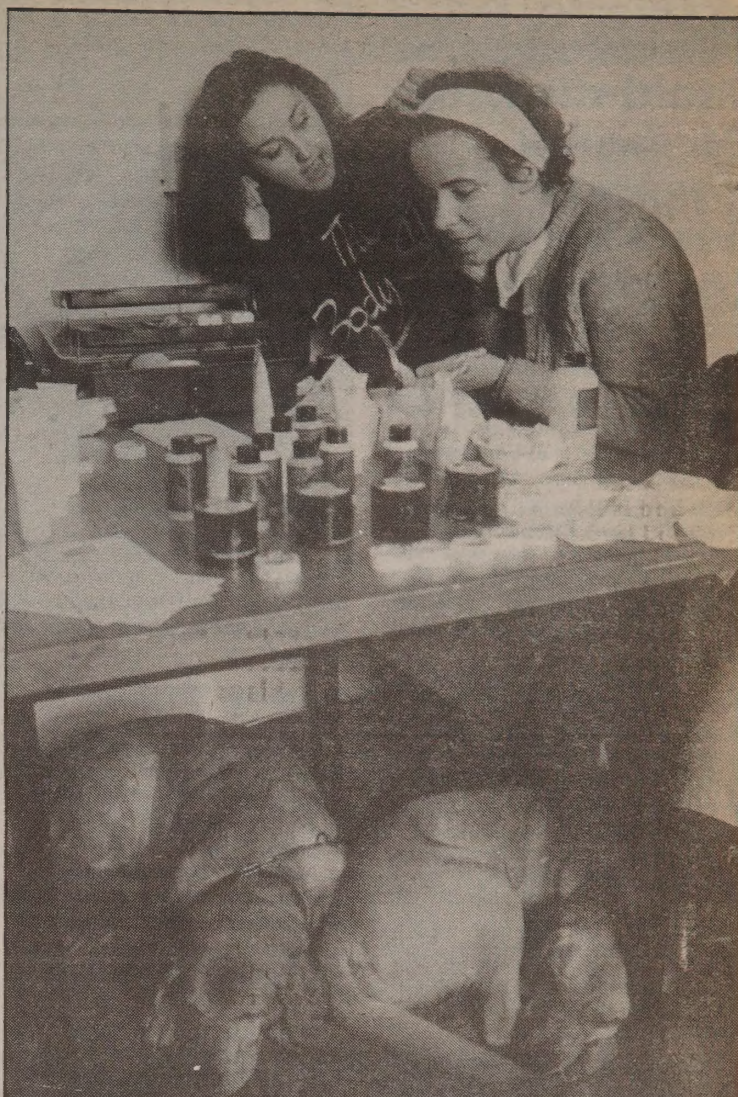
With Julia Duguid, job-seeking skills co-ordinator at the RNIB Commercial Training College in London, she then organised a series of make-up workshops with the students, and began to log the specific needs of blind and partially sighted women in applying make-up.

"A lot of the girls have found it very difficult to start using make-up and so they have never tried it," said Julia Duguid. "They needed someone to show them how to get started."

She feels that make-up can be very important to boost the women's confidence and help them compete with sighted women, for example when attending job interviews.

"On the personal side, some of the students said that it really changed their life in a lot of ways as they were able to fit in with young society better," she said.

"Feed-back from the girls was tremendous," agreed Barbara Daly. "We felt that the obvious next step would be to produce an audio tape that could be used as a step-by-step guide."



A Body Shop assistant gives a blind student tips on how to apply a smooth foundation and keeping make-up out of your hair.

The 55 minute tape **Colour Sense** is now available for £1 from all branches of The Body Shop. The tape is also available mail order (no postage and packaging charge) from The Body Shop International plc, PO Box 24, Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 7PB.

The Body Shop has also set up

training days for shop staff in London and produced a short video, with help and advice from the RNIB, aimed at training staff to help visually handicapped people choose make-up and skin care products. It covers basics such as how to approach the customer, and how to guide her about the shop.

## A little black lump of plastic that can change your life

Andrew Berry talks about his Z88

I am writing this using a Cambridge Computer Z88 - one of the smallest portable computers available.

This little black lump of plastic has had a dramatic impact on my life. Its arrival marked one of those changes from which there is no going back.

The Z88 is exactly the same size as an A4 sheet of paper (about 11x8 in) and about an inch thick. It runs on batteries or off a mains adaptor.

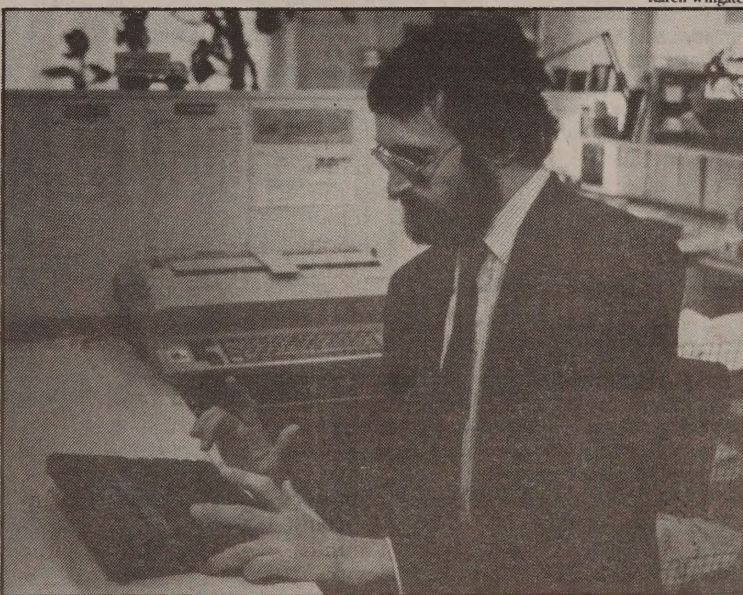
It has a full size keyboard and a display which shows seven lines of text each with up to eighty letters.

The keyboard is described in various press reviews as an "odd rubberised" one and, indeed, that is a fair first impression. When you actually use it, it is surprisingly pleasant. It is, however, very light to the touch and would not suit anybody with very poor hand control - but my machine has been operated by someone using her foot! Try it, and decide for yourself.

The display uses the latest "supertwist LCD" technology, so it is much clearer than the displays on the earlier portable computers. In dim lighting it can be difficult to read, though, and the letters are quite small and cannot be enlarged.

I expect most disabled people will use the Z88 as a portable notepad (rather like an electronic Filofax) or as a communication aid.

It is extremely well suited to being a notepad and scores over



Andrew Berry with his Z88. It can be used as a portable notepad or "rather like an electronic filofax", he says.

the paper variety by being easier to handle, particularly if, like me, you tend to give books a hard time.

Although larger than its main competitor, the Psion Organiser, the Z88's full size keyboard and better display give it the edge. It is also very robust - mine has been dropped more than once onto tile floors and still lives on.

The small size letters on the display may limit its usefulness as a communication aid. But it is a full-blown computer and I expect that someone - possibly as a result of reading this article - will produce a program to write

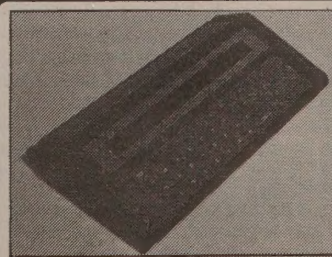
large text.

As regards printing, two routes are available. The Z88 can drive a standard computer printer, or programs for the IBM PC and BBC Micro are available which allow text to be transferred back and forth.

Talking of the BBC Micro, the Z88 includes a copy of the BBC Basic, so some of the simpler educational programs written for that computer for use by disabled people may well run on the Z88 with minor adaptations.

The Z88 is available from computer shops (including Dixons) and costs about £287. Various add-ons are available, including a very small, battery-operated printer for £399.

Andrew Berry is on The Spastics Society's executive council.



### Difficulty in speaking? Lightwriter SL1

small 8 inches wide  
portable battery-operated  
simple very easy to use

Type what you want to say

as you type, the message builds up on two easy-to-read displays

TOBY CHURCHILL LTD  
20 Panton Street  
CAMBRIDGE CB2 1HP  
England 0223 316117



## PEOPLE

### Multi-disabled Methodist preacher loses her job

Lin Berwick, *Disability Now's* telephone counsellor, has become a fully accredited local preacher in the Methodist church.

She had to go through 4 years of training which involved: preaching "on trial"; compiling 96 essays on tape, which were then typed up by her "guide and support" Ruth Page; learning 44 of John Wesley's sermons, and taking 4 exams covering the Old and New Testaments, worship and preaching, and theological doctrine.

"It has been a lot of very hard work," said Lin. But already she has been asked to take a special service for blind people in Norwich, in addition to regular preaching on her own circuit of 14 churches in Essex.

But the bad news is that she has been made redundant from her job as a counsellor with Care-natch, the agency which matches the needs of physically disabled people against residential homes. Lin was the only disabled member of staff.

Funding, which was taken over by the London Borough Grants Unit after the abolition of the GLC, has been cut and they can no longer afford to pay Lin.

"I feel it will be very detrimental to the organisation. People need someone to talk to when they are thinking about giving up their independence



Prince Edward, Noel Edmonds (Chairman of SOS), Gilly Coman and other TV stars congratulate Ron Heavey (right), winner of an SOS Special Award. Students dancers Damien Ward and Helen Jenkinson are in front.

and going into care: it is a very big step," said Lin. "They are admitting that in some way their disability has defeated them and they need counselling to come to terms with that."

She intends to set up as a consultant on disability issues. "I will have to regroup my life all over again."

Ron Heavey MBE, head of Mill House Special School, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside has been awarded the Stars Organisation for Spastics (SOS) Special Award for "outstanding work with disabled people".

He was presented with the award by Prince Edward during a BBC1 Bank Holiday programme.

Mr Heavey has been head at Mill House, a school for children

with learning difficulties, for the last 28 years. He introduced a dance and drama programme for students which has since grown into a dance company.

Two members of the company, Helen Jenkinson and Damien Ward, danced on the TV programme and got a standing ovation.

Noel Edmonds, chairman of SOS, said Ron Heavey had "given these children a platform to express themselves and show what they can do."

Mike Devenney, 28, has been appointed chair of social services for the London borough of Islington.

He is the first person with disabilities, (cp and a speech impairment) living in London, to hold this position in local government.

Mr Devenney, who is a Labour councillor, has already served as vice-chair of Islington's social services committee.

"I am in politics because I believe in Labour policies and not to promote disability as such. I just happen to be disabled. But as chair of social services I am in a particularly key position to tackle disability issues.

He thinks the next year will be a difficult one because of financial cuts but says, "I think disability is one of those areas where new resources will be made available."



Noreen Miller, 39, is now director of the Alzheimer's Disease Society, which supports over half a million people with dementia and their carers.

She comes to the ADS with 9 years' experience as director of Contact-a-Family, the national charity for families of children with special needs, which she built up from one project.

She is undaunted by her new task: "What excites me is the scale of the problem and the opportunities which could exist to help some of the most stressed and isolated people in the community."

The statutory provision available for dementia sufferers is "quite inadequate" she says and her priority is to provide more information to professionals and the public about the disease, its management and the practical help available.

Her first step is to mount an Action on Dementia campaign.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Travellers' Guide for the Disabled 1988** is a new publication from the Automobile Association. It contains the results of their survey on motorway service area facilities for disabled travellers, plus lists of specialised accommodation, places to visit, useful addresses, toilet facilities, and a section on the disabled traveller abroad and where to stay. Free to AA members, £2.95 + 55p p&p for non-members, from the AA, Mail Order Dept, PO Box 51, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2BR. Cheques

and postal orders should be made out to The Automobile Association.

PHAB (Physically Handicapped and Able-bodied) is running a **Summer Art Competition** which is open to any entrant of any age. Entrants are invited to interpret in any art form what quality of life means to them and to tell the judges why. The prizes will be quality holidays suited to the requirements of winners. The closing date for entries is 31 July. Entry forms from PHAB, Tavistock House North, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9HX, tel: 01-681 1399.

## THE LONDON DIAL-A-RIDE USERS' ASSOCIATION

requires a

### CO-ORDINATOR

To be responsible for all aspects of the Association's work in campaigning for an expanded and improved provision of public transport for people with disabilities.

**Salary £13,932 (inc) - S02 Non-Contributory Pension.** 25 days holiday

Further details and application form from:

**LONDON DIAL-A-RIDE USERS' ASSOCIATION**  
25 LEIGHTON ROAD, LONDON NW5 2QD. Tel: 01-482 2325

Closing date for applications: 15 July 1988

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer, and particularly welcome applications from people with disabilities.

BRENT COUNCIL WISHES TO EMPLOY MORE DISABLED PEOPLE. ONE IN TEN OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY IS A DISABLED PERSON, AND WE WISH TO REFLECT THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE AMONGST OUR STAFF. WE ARE LOOKING FOR THE FOLLOWING STAFF TO WORK IN THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT SERVICING THE RACE, DISABILITIES AND WOMEN'S ADVISORS.

### Administrative Assistant - Scale 3 - Ref: C/671

**Salary £8,622 rising to £9,174 p.a. inc.**

Applicants must have experience of using a Word Processor and have the ability to organise the diaries of 3 Advisors.

### Administrative Assistant/Research Officer - Scale 5 - Ref: C/670

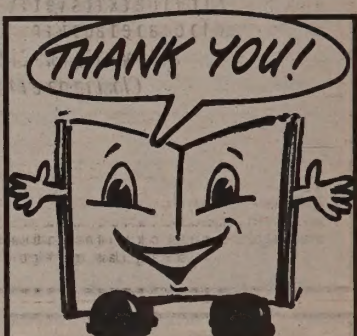
**Salary £10,488 rising to £11,373 p.a. inc.**

Candidates need to show an ability to investigate and research disability, race and gender issues.

Brent is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications are welcome from candidates irrespective of race, nationality, ethnic or national origins, age, marital status or gender and from lesbians and gay men and disabled persons. Job Sharers welcome.

Application forms and job descriptions from  
The Personnel Division Room 1, Brent Town Hall Annexe,  
Kings Drive, Wembley, Middx HA9 9BR  
Returnable by 13th July  
Telephone 01-903 0371  
(24-hour Ansafone service).  
Reference numbers must be quoted.

London Borough of  
**BRENT**



In June 39 readers generously donated a total of £229 to *Disability Now*.

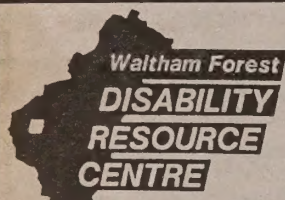
Thank you to:

Mrs J Adams, Rotherham  
Mr A Blair, Manchester  
J Borington, London N15  
Mrs S Browning, Isle of Wight  
Mrs M Cape, Portsmouth  
K Carrington, Timsbury, Avon  
Mrs D Chaloner, Hoddesdon, Herts  
Mrs R Coombes, Sandgate, Kent  
Mr R Council, Barnsley  
Ms M Dillon, London NW6  
R Dooley, Cambridge  
Mr & Mrs R Edwards, Carnforth  
Miss P Fish, Sawbridgeworth, Herts  
Mrs D Flynn, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear  
Mrs S Gardiner, Ilkley, W Yorks  
S Haldane, Northwood, Middx  
J Halliday-O'Brien, Hayling Island  
Miss G Hamburger, Salford  
Mrs J Hancock, Cleethorpes  
Miss C Henderson, Cambridge  
M & A Johnson, Newcastle  
John Kavanagh, Croydon  
D Littleford, Leamington Spa  
Dr A Makar, Northwood, Middx  
Meridian Disability Assoc, Peacehaven  
Mrs S Moody, Scunthorpe  
NE Derbyshire Area Education  
Sister E Pantekock, Newent, Glos  
Mr W Poole, Wood Thorpe, York  
P Riley, London SW18  
Mr E Ripley, London EC1Y  
R Simper, Norwich  
Mr G Talbot, London N22  
H A Turner, London SW19  
Mr & Mrs Wallwork, Nelson, Lancs  
Ms S Wassell, Sheffield  
Miss A Williams, Wrexham  
L Williams, Langport, Somerset  
D Youngman, Wix, Essex  
and many supporters at Naidex

To join them, please send your cheque or postal order (made out to The Spastics Society) to Gayle Mooney, Room 2B, Disability Now, Freeport, 12 Park Crescent, London W1E 3FB.

I would like to donate  
£..... to *Disability Now*

NAME.....  
ADDRESS.....  
POST CODE.....



A Centre where disabled people are working together to develop our resources, and to change attitudes and existing services to better meet our needs. We are specifically looking for a person with a disability (registered or unregistered), for:

### TRAINING AND STAFFING OFFICER

£12,114-£12,867 incl. London weighting:

To organize our innovative Training and Employment Scheme, training 11 disabled people in administration and new technology, personal support and transport provision. You would be responsible for direct one-to-one training at our centre, supporting staff in their day to day work, liaising with local colleges etc for off-the-job courses, and negotiating with the local authority and other employers to place our trainee staff in open employment.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with training experience. An experience of computers is an advantage. For an application form please write to the DRC, 1A Warner Road, Walthamstow, London E17 7DY, or telephone 01-520 8347. Closing date for applications: Friday 29th July.

### CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S Women's Equality Officer

Salary £11,322-£12,075 Post No. C131

Leicester City Council is committed to ensuring that its Equal Opportunities Policy works in practice and the Women's Equality Unit was set up two years ago to help achieve this. We are looking for someone who is willing to bring to a team environment their own life experience, strengths and perceptions. You will need to appreciate the needs of women especially Black women, women with disabilities, lesbians, single parents and working class women. You will also need to:

- ★ have an understanding of issues of importance to Black women
- ★ have had experience of being involved with women's groups
- ★ be able to communicate clearly and sensitively
- ★ be able to work on your own initiative and organise yourself
- ★ be committed to working as part of a team
- ★ have an understanding of how Council services affect women
- ★ have an understanding and awareness of issues of importance to women with disabilities

We value the contribution that a woman with a disability could make to the team, and we therefore positively encourage women with disabilities to apply. This job involves helping to develop Council policy and encourage good working practice on matters affecting women and assisting in consulting with women.

We are looking for someone with a good general education and an understanding of the breadth and complexity of the discrimination faced by women in employment and training. You will need to be able to research, draw conclusions and put information into clear written form. Some evening and weekend work will be required.

A place may be available at The Workplace Nursery for employees with children 6 mths-5 yrs old.

Where relocation is necessary, expenses to a maximum of £2,360 plus approved removal costs, together with help in finding temporary housing accommodation, are available.

Application forms (returnable by 22nd July 1988) and further details from Director of Personnel and Management Services, New Walk Centre, Welford Place, Leicester LE1 6ZG. Tel (0533) 549922 Ext. 7099.

As part of the City Council's commitment to an Equal Opportunity Policy, applications are welcome from people regardless of marital status, sex, race, sexual orientation or disability. Disabled persons are guaranteed an interview if suitably qualified and/or experienced. Job sharing applications are welcome.



## CLASSIFIED

### HOLIDAYS

**THORNBURY HALL HOTEL**, Churnet Valley. Specialised facilities for all disabilities. Companion service available (no extra cost) to allow all the family to enjoy themselves. Conference facilities and study/craft courses available on request. Colour TV in all bedrooms, single rooms available. Games room. Hotel stands in 5 acres of ground amidst beautiful countryside. Prices from £21.50 a day full board. For a brochure contact Thornbury Hall Hotel, Lockwood Road, Kingsley Holt, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST10 2DH, tel: (0538) 757220.

### FOR SALE

**USED CARS** from £3,000. For a selection of new and used Chairman cars contact **GOWRINGS MOBILITY INTERNATIONAL**. "Travel in your wheelchair in your car." Dial 100 and ask for Freephone Gowrings.

**ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIRS/SCOOTERS/BATTERY CARS.** All makes, models wanted and for sale. Nearly new, hardly used from half price. Demonstra-

tions and collections. Free advice. All areas. Contact Mr Gibbons. Tel: 021-357 4965 anytime.

**VESSA MARK 3** with kerb climbers. September 86. One owner, good condition. Right hand control. £1,200 or near offer. Tel: Pete Lloyd (02407) 4734.

**ELVA TWIN SPECIAL**, 2-motor scooter. Powerhouse among scooters. Very stable with unlimited all round performance. Battery charger. Basket. Many features. New '87. Rarely used. No longer needed. Tel: (044284) 3422 (Herts).

**VESSA VITESSE MARK 3**, including kerb climbers and battery charger. Nearly new. £1,000 ono. Tel: 01-254 3796 after 6pm.

**MANGAR BATHLIFT**, never used, still in box, 1 year old. Mangar will give free demonstration and maintenance check for new owner. Cost £400, will accept near offer. Tel: (0293) 560547 after 3pm.

**BEC PORTABLE ELEC** wheelchair with

kerb climber and charger. Cost £1,495 - £1,000 or near offer. Little used. Tel: (0253) 51203.

**SWIVEL SEAT** suitable for a 2-door Astra. Swivels and extends over car sill. As new. £120 ono. Tel: Newbury (0635) 43118.

**A-REG TALBOT**, hydraulic body with tail-lift, front passenger seat swivels out. 2 fold-away seats, tinted windows. £2,500 ono. Tel: (0992) 460574.

**RED CHAIRMAN ESCORT**, D-reg. Can carry passenger in wheelchair in rear of car. Immaculate condition. £7,500. Tel: 091-388 7955.

**WHITE MINI CLUBMAN**, R-reg. Hand controls fitted. 50,000 miles, reasonable condition. £325. Tel: 01-643 6293 between 6-8pm.

**DAF 33 VARIOMATIC**, 1968, 12 months MOT, excellent condition. One owner, 29,000 miles. Fitted with hand controls. £250 inc delivery. Tel: (0225) 705862.

### WANTED

**ESCAMATIC MOBILE STAIR-RIDER** wheelchair wanted. Tel: (0275) 823195, Bristol area.

**Something to buy or sell? Looking for friends or staff? Why not advertise in DN?**

For £2 a line, you can reach over 25,000 people. (Minimum charge £8. Find-a-Friend is free and all classified ads are free for members of The Spastics Society and affiliated groups.) Phone 01-636 5020 ext 245, or 01-252 1362 for boxed ads.

### FIND A FRIEND

**29-YEAR-OLD MAN**, medium height and build, dark hair, lives alone. Interests include music, meeting people, socialising, playing pool and darts. Would like to write to someone with similar interests. Please write to Box No 529, *Disability Now*, address on page 20, marking envelopes Private and Confidential.

**WIDOW, 61-YEARS-OLD**, slight cp, would like to meet a man aged 60-65 who can walk quite well, and who is looking for friendship with a view to eventual marriage. Lives East Sussex. Please write to Box No 530, *Disability Now*, address on page 20, marking envelopes Private and Confidential.

**I LIVE IN SOUTH LONDON**, am a 36-year-old man who uses a wheelchair. I have brown hair and eyes, live in my own flat and drive a car. My interests include music - both popular and classical - and going out to restaurants and pubs. I am looking for a female aged 28-36 with similar interests for a special relationship. Photo if possible. Please write to Box No 531, *Disability Now*, address

on page 20, marking envelopes Private and Confidential.

**PROFESSIONAL DISABLED GUY** (short stature), seeks female friend, age 35-50, South Wales area. Please write to Box No 524, *Disability Now*, address on page 20, marking envelopes Private and Confidential.

**TWO SISTERS WOULD LIKE PEN-FRIENDS**, Melissa Ranford (aged 8) and her sister Jeanette. Both are able-bodied but would like to write to penfriends with disabilities. Melissa would like a penfriend up to 10 years old and Jeanette would like one up to 12 years old. Please write to Box No 528, *Disability Now*, marking envelopes Private and Confidential.

**46 YEAR OLD MALE**, with cp, seeks female friend, aged between 25 and 45 living in the south of England, who likes trips to the coast, walks in the park and visiting places of interest. Please write to Box No 527, *Disability Now*, marking envelopes Private and Confidential.

### Three-year Housing Development Officer Post for "Young Women with Baby" Project

The Rainer Foundation comprises 16 individual projects for young people (16-21 year olds) with a small Head Office team. Emphasis within the Foundation is on integrated services ensuring that black communities and young women have access to our services.

A new three year post now exists to co-ordinate the development of small shared houses for young women with babies in addition to our single shared housing schemes. This is an innovative scheme which will require the establishment of an unusual inter-borough team committed to housing and positive support and education for care with babies. The post requires an understanding of Housing Association development processes, a thorough ability to develop health and childcare policy and practices and a commitment to EOPs.

Ability to work independently and initiate new development also required. This post will require extensive travelling within SE and NE London. Priority will be given to disabled applicants.

Salary £12,432-£13,173 plus ILWA £1,500

Closing date Monday 4th July 1988

Application form and information from the

Rainer Foundation,

227-239 Tooley Street London SE1 2JX.

The Rainer Foundation is committed to a policy of equal opportunity of employment and is developing its practices to ensure its effectiveness. This Policy aims to ensure that no employee or job applicant receives less favourable treatment because of race, colour, ethnic or national origins, sex, marital status, family responsibility, disability, sexuality, class, age, religion, or by reason of being an ex-offender.

**SHAPE in Hammersmith and Fulham** present

A PRE NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL EVENT WORKSHOPS ON CARNIVAL THEMES, MUSIC, DANCE, MAAS RAPPING PERFORMANCES, FOOD AND BAR

August 12th

IN THE SUPERTENT, WORMWOOD SCRUBBS NEAREST TUBE EAST ACTON SIGNERS ON REQUEST SOME TRANSPORT AVAILABLE

Free for disabled people

Further info contact Pat Place or Anne Dundon Shape 181 King St London W6 9JU 741 7548, 748 3020 x 3563

**GRAE THEATRE IN EDUCATION**

(the company of disabled performers)

requires 4 workshop leaders

and 1 stage manager

for its forthcoming schools project

Sep 88-March 89

(closing date 11th July)

Please contact for details before applying

Græe Theatre Company

The Diorama

18 Park Square East

London NW1 4LH

01-935-5588

Græe is an equal opportunities employer and a member of the Independent Theatre Council.

### COVENTRY RESOURCE AND INFORMATION SERVICE

require a Finance Worker to take responsibility for the overall preparation, co-ordination and monitoring of the annual C.R.I.S. budget, preparation of periodic financial reports and end of year accounts, and all other financial matters as they arise.

Applicants should have experience and/or qualifications relevant to these requirements. The job is for 22 hours per week at a salary of £10,500 P.A. pro rata.

Application forms available at

C.R.I.S., Unit 15, The Arches Industrial Estate, Spon End, Coventry, CV1 3JQ. Tel No. 77719.

Closing date for applications 30th June.

Interview date 15th July.

C.R.I.S. is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

art link

### Field Worker £9,561 p.a.

Based in North Staffordshire and serving the whole of the West Midlands, this exciting and innovative organisation is seeking a third worker to take responsibility for the practical aspects of promoting and encouraging arts and cultural activities for people with disabilities and 'special needs'.

Full driving licence and knowledge of arts or disability issues essential.

Art Link is seeking to become an Equal Opportunities employer and thus welcomes applications from people with disabilities and from members of Black and Asian communities.

Closing date: 15th July 1988

For further details contact Art Link, 17A Hanover Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 1HD or telephone 0782 614170.

### NEWHAM'S PERSONNEL & MANAGEMENT SERVICES DIVISION

## Taking the initiative in a climate of change.

It is perhaps understandable, given the present climate within Local Government, that enlightened policies may be forced to take a back seat. But that certainly isn't our view.

There is an even greater need to pursue efficiency, value for money and sound staffing and grading structures.

We propose to do just that.

By strengthening our Personnel and Management Services Division.

These appointments will make us more efficient by contributing to our reviews of services and work on competitive tendering.

### PERSONNEL EQUALITY UNIT

*The London Borough of Newham is moving up a gear in its work on disability issues, and is seeking to recruit people to fill three new and challenging jobs. The postholders will be working closely with each other and the other members of the unit, and will also liaise with a variety of councillors, officers, trade unions, the public and outside organisations. A strong commitment to equal opportunities issues generally, and an understanding of the double discrimination faced by people with disabilities who are black or from other ethnic minorities, women, lesbians or gay men, is essential for all posts.*

### Personnel Equality Officer (Disabilities)

Ref: ASC/476

Scale 4/PO(3-6) £8,625 - £15,417 p.a. inc.

You will have special responsibility for the promotion of equal opportunities in the Council's employment policies and practices for people with disabilities. This will involve consulting and advising people both within and outside the Council on the employment needs of people with disabilities; researching and preparing reports on personnel issues; and monitoring the Council's progress on equality and support of people with disabilities at work. You will need to get ideas across clearly face-to-face and in writing, and to convert ideas into action. You should be able to deal effectively with conflicting pressures and changing priorities, and to work to tight deadlines. Ability to work as part of a team as well as on your own initiative is essential. Formal qualifications and experience are

not required, but you should have direct experience of disability and an understanding of the employment needs of disabled people.

We are looking to appoint at SO1-2.

Closing date: 15th July 1988.

### Disability Support Officer

Ref: ASC/557

Scale 4/PO(3-6) £8,625 - £15,417 p.a. inc.

You will be responsible for progressing issues raised by the Council's Advisory Group on Access and Disability, a body which comprises Councillors, members of local voluntary groups concerned with disability issues, and council officers. This work will cover employment and service issues, and will involve liaising with a wide variety of people. A full understanding of the rights and wishes of people with disabilities and an ability to translate the Advisor Group's recommendations into action will be a major requirement of this job. You should be able to deal with conflicting pressures, changing priorities and tight deadlines; communicate ideas effectively; and work well as part of a team and on an individual basis. No formal educational qualifications or experience are necessary, but you should have direct experience of disability and experience of working on disability-related issues (either paid or unpaid).

We are looking to appoint at SO1-2.

Closing date: 15th July 1988.

Application forms and further details are available from Personnel and Management Services Division, Town Hall, East Ham, London E6 2RP or tel 01 471 0619 or 01 471 3063 (24 hour answering service).

Please quote the appropriate Reference.

Newham Council is committed to an equal opportunities policy. This means that the Council is committed to ensuring that no job applicant or employee will receive less favourable treatment on the grounds of race, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or is disadvantaged by condition of requirements which cannot be seen to be justifiable. All jobs are open for job sharers, unless otherwise stated.

**Newham**  
An Equal Opportunity Authority



## Research on elderly axed

The only research unit in Britain specialising in the health care of elderly people will close in December because the Government is to withdraw its £130,000-a-year funding.

The decision follows a review of the team's work by a group of academics led by Professor Francis O'Grady, the Government's Chief Scientist, who passed the report to the Welsh Office.

The team of 4 has been working at St David's Hospital, Cardiff for 10 years on the care of elderly people in the community. Most recently, they have been doing research on primary care, family carers, elderly disabled people, how to reduce smoking and sleeping tablet dependence in old people and the problems of moving back into the community from hospital.

"This kind of work has never been very popular with the DHSS and has a very low priority, because of ageism," says Dr Norman Vetter, the team director.

As no formal appeals procedure exists, they are looking for independent assessment to back them up. They meet an all-party group of MPs on 22 June.

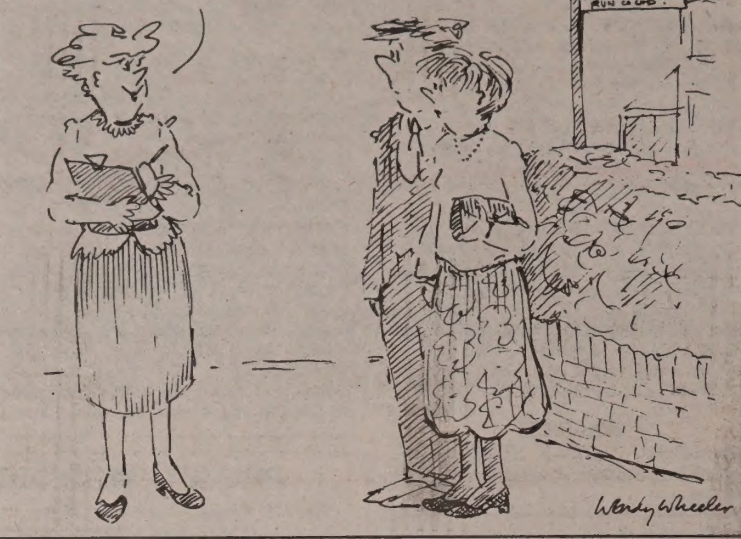
Who made the decision to stop the funding is unclear. Professor O'Grady's office say the report made no recommendations either way. Dr Vetter says final responsibility for the grant lies with the Welsh Office.

"It is timely to re-focus the clinical and health service research effort in this field," said a Welsh Office spokesman.

He said the DHSS, acting on the report, did not believe the team were giving "full value on the investment made," and it was their decision. He could not say how value for money was calculated.

"The system can only be described as Byzantine," says Dr Vetter. "Following the Griffiths and Wagner reports, how are the DHSS to evaluate community care practices in order to effect the best changes without the only research team in this field?"

AH! - ARE YOU THE PEOPLE THINKING OF BUYING NO. 42?  
I WONDER IF YOU'D MIND FILLING IN A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE ON YOUR FAMILY HISTORY, POSSIBILITY OF INCIDENCE OF PHYSICAL, MENTAL OR EMOTIONAL DISABILITY, GENETIC PROPENSITIES, SOCIAL STATUS, CIRCLE OF FRIENDS, VOTING HABITS, SEXUAL IRREGULARITIES... YOU KNOW THE SORT OF THING?...



## Ombudsman in group homes row

The Health Service Ombudsman, Sir Anthony Barrowclough, provoked a storm of protest last month by saying that neighbours must be consulted before mentally handicapped people are moved into homes in the community.

The row blew up at the Institute of Health Service Management's annual conference in June. Health service managers said Sir Anthony was condoning prejudice against mentally disabled people and that he had set back the cause of moving people from institutions into community care.

Addressing the conference, Sir Anthony said he had received a number of complaints about the transfer of mentally handicapped people into the community from "neighbours who are concerned about the effect on them and, frankly, on the value of their own houses."

"In my view the health authority is not entitled to ignore the neighbours," he said. "Apart from any other consideration the cause of integrating the men-

tally handicapped into the community is not helped if the community is resentful - which is precisely what occurs if the health authority adopts an insensitive or cavalier approach."

Julia Cumberlege, chairman of the National Association of Health Authorities, told him: "The mentally handicapped have equal rights. The community does not sit in judgement on other groups of people who choose to buy a house next to them - students for example who can be much more disruptive with loud music, drugs and all the rest of it."

Sir Anthony, whose job as Ombudsman is to safeguard patients' interests, said later that there was no question of neighbours having a right to veto group home schemes.

"The main reason I think they should be approached is because of most people's ignorance about mentally handicapped people. Ignorance leads to exaggerated fears and I believe that an approach will help reduce that."

He said that in each of eight complaints he has dealt with, he found some fault with either the timing, the manner or the extent of the health authorities' approach to neighbours.

## Disability Now

Published by The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ.  
Tel: 01-636 5020.

Editor Mary Wilkinson  
Assistant Editor Karen Wingate

Reporter Julian Marshall  
Editorial Secretary Geraldine Holden

Circulation Gayle Mooney  
Advertising Jonathan Wine, Kingslea Press Ltd., 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays, Lower Road, London SE16 2XL. Tel: 01-252 1362.  
Typesetting by FMT Graphics Ltd., 182 Union Street, London SE1.

Printed by Portobello Web Press, Littlehampton and 108 Temple Chambers, Temple Avenue, London EC4. Tel: 01-583 3190.

The views expressed in *Disability Now* are not necessarily those of The Spastics Society.

Copyright © 1988 The Spastics Society.



## Independent Living Fund starts

The Independent Living Fund, a £5m discretionary Trust Fund set up by the Government to help severely disabled people who need domestic support or personal care to live in the community, is now operational.

It was launched on 8 June by Minister for Social Security and the Disabled, Nicholas Scott, and Parliamentary Adviser to the Disablement Income Group, Peter Large. (DIG and its equivalent in Scotland have helped to set up the Trust and supplied 5 of the 10 trustees.)

The Fund has a life of 5 years. Payments from it will be disregarded when assessing a disabled person's entitlement to income support and family credit - and, from later in the year,

housing benefit too.

Announced in February, the Fund was set up after strong representations from disability organisations who feared that severely disabled people claiming benefit after 11 April would lose money under the new system. It was supposed to be ready by April.

Many disability organisations have criticised the Fund as a charitable handout by the Government when severely disabled people should have a statutory right to benefit. Also, it will help only a few people.

For further information and an application form, write to the Independent Living Fund, PO Box 183, Nottingham NG8 3RD.

## MPs slam community care

A new all-party Commons committee report finds confusion and inconsistency in the provision of community care services and blames the DHSS for a "lack of systematic monitoring arrangements on local authority performance".

The DHSS has overall responsibility for the community care programme. Yet it only monitors the NHS, through the Regional Health Authorities. It does not know how much money local authorities spend on community care services.

If appropriate community support services were available, says the report, nearly a quarter of all elderly people claiming benefits who go into residential homes could stay in their own homes for longer. It would also reduce the likelihood of patients being transferred into the community without adequate services in place.

Some 375,000 of the 8 million elderly, mentally handicapped and mentally ill people in England, live in institutions.

Although the MPs did not see the Griffiths report on community care, many of their recom-

mendations are similar.

For example, they acknowledge that the DHSS cannot influence local authority allocation of resources to community care, and so tacitly agree with "targeted grants" to ensure that local authorities spend a certain amount on community care.

After almost 15 years of Joint Planning between the NHS and local authorities, "the reluctance of local authorities to take up Joint Finance has inhibited the growth of community care services," says the report.

"We are surprised that proper financial control over Joint Finance schemes is still lacking; we therefore expect the DHSS to take urgent remedial action."

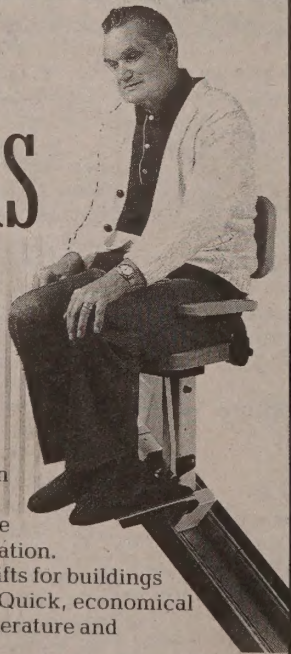
Other recommendations include: reviewing the operation of community care policies, better planning, clinical assessment for elderly people in care and curbing the profits made by private home owners by pegging benefit to services provided.

Community Care Developments, a Committee of Public Accounts report, HMSO, £5.10.

## UPSTAIRS DOWNSTAIRS

### Gimson Tendercare Stairlifts at your service

A versatile range of stairlifts for all who find it difficult or tiring to climb stairs. Transporting seated, standing or wheelchair passengers safely up straight flight staircases and round corners. With fixed or swivel seats to fold against wall when not in use, plus hinged tracks that clear doorways. Reliable, comfortable models with quiet, push-button operation. And the option of personal vertical lifts for buildings which can't accommodate stairlifts. Quick, economical installation by professionals. Free literature and advisory visit on request.



GIMSON  
TENDERCARE

Walker Greenbank Healthcare

Please send free literature on Gimson Tendercare Stairlifts:  
☐ Straight-flight stairlifts ☐ Spiral lifts  
☐ Corner stairlifts ☐ Personal vertical lifts  
☐ Wheelchair stairlifts

Please arrange free advisory visit Yes/No

Name .....  
Address .....  
Telephone .....

Post to (no stamp required): Gimson Tendercare FREEPOST, 62 Boston Road, Beaumont Leys, Leicester LE4 1AZ. Tel: 0533 366779.

DN7/88

23A

## ARJO MECANAIDS JUNIOR SHOWER TROLLEY/CHANGING TABLE

Designed for the special needs of the handicapped child.

\* Enables the disabled or handicapped child to be showered in a comfortable, horizontal position.

\* Facilitates quick, hygienic cleansing after incontinence.

\*\* Height adjustable - can also be used as a changing table.



For more details of our Shower/Changing Trolley send to:  
ARJO MECANAIDS LTD.  
FREEPOST ST CATHERINE STREET  
GLOUCESTER GL1 2BR.  
0452 500200

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....

TEL ..... DN7/88

arjo  
mecanoids  
PATIENT LIFTING/BATHING SYSTEMS